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EDITORS' CHOICE
BEST OF
NEW ENGLAND
TRAVEL
YANKEE MAGAZINE

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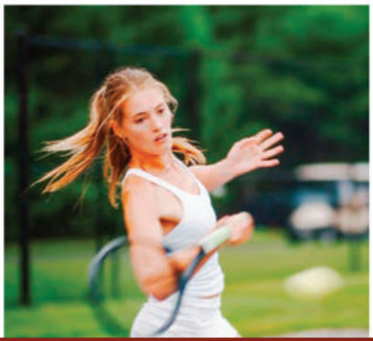

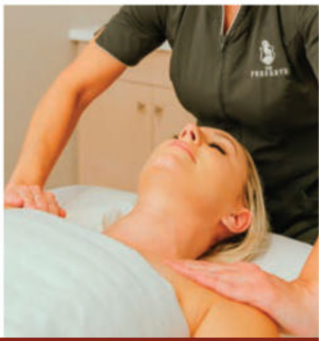

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Produced and photographed in New Castle, New Hampshire, by Maine-based creative duo Jackie Greaney and Paul Havel.

LIZ NEILY (STRAWBERRIES); ADAM DETOUR (FAISON); BUILDINGS OF NEW ENGLAND (CAPE)

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Photo: Dave Sarazen

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TAKE A MOMENT TO ENJOY MASSACHUSETTS WITH YOUR FAMILY

Memories may be invisible, but in Massachusetts it's easy to watch them being made anywhere you see families exploring the Bay State together. The smiles of little kids reaching for a first scoop of real cow-to-cone ice cream, or digging into their first-ever lobster roll. The pride on parents' faces as they tour their alma mater with their own budding scholars. The triumphant hugs shared between young and old after conquering a thrilling ski run, zipline, or summit hike for the first time.

No matter what your family loves to do—from playing in the outdoors to spending a day in the big city—Massachusetts is a destination that can be shared in by travelers of all ages, and will inspire them to keep coming back with future generations in tow. After all, there are always more memories waiting to be made.

BEACH FUN: Few things in childhood compare with seeing the ocean for the first time, and Massachusetts's stay-all-day beaches and fun coastal towns offer the perfect setting for this magical moment. The Cape & Islands region is home to the sweeping **Cape Cod National Seashore**—not to mention the stunning island beaches of **Nantucket** and **Martha's Vineyard**—but families can delight in surf and sand all along the state's 1,500-mile coastline, from **Salisbury Beach** in the north to Westport's **Horseneck Beach** in the south.

FAMILY THRILLS: You're never too old or too young to feel the adrenaline rush of tackling a brand-new adventure. Give white-water rafting a go in **Charlemont**, home to three leading outfitters that offer guided trips for kids as young as 5, or play among the treetops at one of Massachusetts's aerial adventure parks, such as **Boundless Adventures** in Berlin, just an hour from Boston. And the state's ski areas are renowned for making excitement accessible to all: At **Jiminy Peak** in Western Mass., for example, KidsRule Mountain Camps get children ages 4 to 14 on the path to a lifelong love of skiing and snowboarding.

HANDS-ON HISTORY: Learning goes hand in hand with fun at Massachusetts's

Seagull Beach, West Yarmouth

PHOTOS: MARK FLEMING (THIS PAGE); GABRIELA HERMAN (TOP RIGHT); VANESSA KAHN/NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM (RIGHT)

Mass MoCA,
North Adams

New England Aquarium,
Boston

living history museums, where costumed interpreters and demonstrations transport visitors with the stories, sights, and sounds of another era. Wander a re-created 1830s rural New England town at **Old Sturbridge Village**, see how indigenous peoples and colonial settlers lived at **Plimoth Patuxet Museums**, and enter the peaceful world of a 19th-century Shaker community at **Hancock Shaker Village**, where kids can watch baby chicks hatch or try their hand at weaving on a loom that's sized just for them.

OUTDOOR EXCURSIONS: Looking to unplug with your family and get out into nature? There are literal paths to paradise in the form of countless biking and hiking trails that traverse some of Massachusetts's loveliest landscapes. On Cape Cod, the paved 5½-mile **Province Lands Trail** offers easy access to wild dunes and coastal forests; at the other end of the state, a hike up The Trustees' **Monument Mountain** reveals the grand Berkshire views that once inspired Hawthorne and Melville. For an even deeper appreciation of Massachusetts's great outdoors, there are more than 30 state camping facilities and dozens of private campgrounds where you can pitch a tent or park an RV, and end a day of exploring together around a campfire with s'mores.

ARTS & CULTURE: Where grown-ups see masterpieces and history-rich artifacts, kids see a world of wonderful colors and strange new things to marvel at—and both come away with a shared learning experience that will last a lifetime. In the Berkshires, the **Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (Mass MoCA)** sets a high bar for all-ages appeal with a 16-acre campus made for wandering; larger-than-life art installations; and Kidspace, a child-centered art gallery and studio. In Springfield, visit a world-class collection of art, science, and history institutions—collectively known as the **Springfield Museums**—that include the Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum and a sculpture garden devoted to the beloved children's author. Just outside Boston, kids can embark on a "treasure hunt" for things like animals and sailing ships amid the vast collection of Salem's **Peabody Essex Museum**, or scamper around fantastical, oversize works of art that dot the landscape at The Trustees' **deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum** in Lincoln.

CITY ADVENTURES: Last but not least, in terms of the sheer number of things to see and do for multigenerational travelers, rely on Massachusetts's cities to inspire a to-do list stretching over many return visits. Attracting more than 22 million visitors a year, **Boston** keeps the family fun going with duck boat tours, the Museum of Science, the newly renovated Boston Children's Museum, Franklin Park Zoo, and New England's biggest aquarium. But other cities have countless don't-miss gems of their own, including **Springfield**, with its activity-filled Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, and **Worcester**, which boasts the EcoTarium science and nature museum and Polar Park, home to the Triple-A farm team for none other than the mighty Red Sox.

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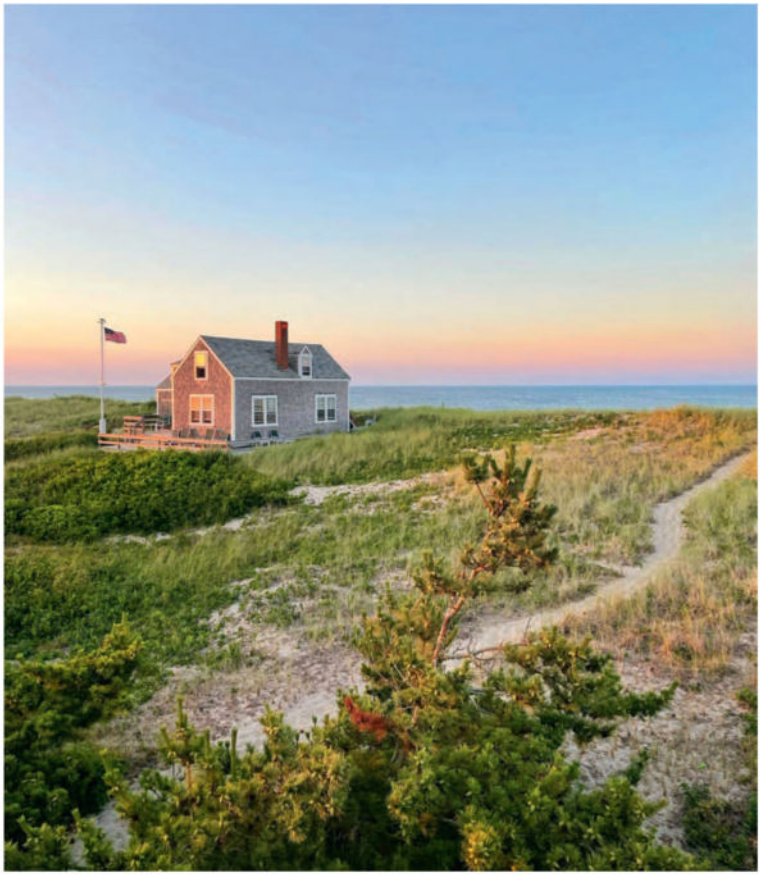
from the editors at Yankee



Sunset over the dunes on Nantucket, Massachusetts, captured by Alyssa Stevens (@alyssakstevens on Instagram)

LIVING

▲ **Seacoast Summer Drive:** In this unforgettable coastal road-trip itinerary, we lay out the best seafood shacks and scenic stops along New Hampshire's small but mighty Seacoast.

FOOD

◀ **Our Best Cookout Recipes:** From pretty pasta salads to home-run hamburgers, rock your next backyard bash with our all-time favorite cookout recipes from the *Yankee* archives.

Beginner's Guide to Backyard Berries: Have you always dreamed of picking your own backyard berries? Get our tips and tricks for stepping up your growing game this summer.

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MARK FLEMING, STYLING BY CATRINE KELTY (BURGER); JACKIE GREANEY & PAUL HAVEL (SEACOAST)

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CONTRIBUTORS

JUSTIN SMULSKI

In photographing our Maine summer drive for “Roads to Riches” [p. 48], Smulski revisited many favorite spots from when he first moved to the Pine Tree State years ago. “It felt wonderfully nostalgic to return to these places and think back to what it was like to discover them for the first time, and see how they’ve changed and not changed,” says Smulski, whose client list includes Maine Coast Heritage Trust and *Down East* magazine.

COURTNEY HOLLANDS

The original inspiration for Hollands’s deep dive into New England bumper stickers [“Bumper Crop,” p. 68] was literally right in front of her: “The cheery decals from my favorite Nantucket sandwich shop, Something Natural, seemed to show up on bumpers wherever I went, including in my own neighborhood—of course, I had to find out the story behind them,” says Hollands, a lifestyle editor and writer based in Somerville, Massachusetts.

CHRISTINE CAPRIO

Caprio’s lyrical essay about her memories of Cape Cod and her father [“Believe in Magic,” p. 14] is her first-ever published piece, which she says feels right, “since it was inspired by the place and one of the people who had a profound impact on me becoming who I am today.” An MFA candidate in creative nonfiction at Bay Path University in Massachusetts, Caprio teaches high school and lives in York, Maine.

BRUCE IRVING

In thinking about Cape Cod houses [“Built to Last,” p. 38], this former *This Old House* producer called up a colleague to help put them into a modern context: namely, realtor Bill Janovitz, more famously the guitarist for Buffalo Tom. “He confirmed some of the type’s shortcomings in this era of McMansions, but echoed my own sentiments exactly when he said, ‘I grew up in a Cape, and they will always feel like home to me,’” Irving says.

ALICE YU DENG

Currently based in Shanghai, China, where she creates illustrations for the likes of *The New York Times* and *Scientific American*, this award-winning freelance artist says she was excited to explore the themes of “Believe in Magic” [p. 14]. “I’m fascinated by the possible magic behind what we see, no matter if there is an empirical explanation or not,” she says. “It’s like there is a beautiful hidden world—if we want, we can see it.”

TRISTAN SPINSKI

“Beyond impressive” is how Spinski, a Maine-based freelance photographer, describes the artists and artisans of The Good Supply [“Artful Escapes,” p. 70], many of whom, like Spinski, call the Midcoast home. “It was a pleasure to meet and photograph these people who are so dedicated to their work, as well as the folks at The Good Supply, who are devoted to both the artists and their community, and provoking a thoughtful conversation.”

DINERS
Worth the
DRIVE

Hits the Spot

Can’t tell you how much I enjoyed reading “Diners Worth the Drive” [March/April], especially about the Modern Diner in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. I’m a former Rhode Islander, and my dear mother was a waitress at the Modern for years. How could I forget that she would bring home fantastic strawberry shortcake and many other wonderful meals? Thank you for the memories.

Arlene Barrow
Mesa, Arizona

March Gladness

Aside from it being the month of my mother’s birth, I’ve never much cared for March, and I’ve often wondered what it was like for my grandmother to give birth in a humble farmhouse 100 years ago on the first day of that month. Having read Ben Hewitt’s “An Ode to March” [March/April], I’m now rethinking my distaste for the month that brings cold, wet winds, frizzy hair, and mud to my Midwestern neighborhood. If truth be told, I’ve ignored the sprouting daffodils, the fresh scent in the air, and the morning bird chorus, and I feel a bit of shame. Ben’s article is an ode to gratitude, and having to turn back a page to finish it seems somehow symbolic, as spring takes us forward and I learn a lesson. What a great piece!

Ann Kennedy
Liberty, Missouri

Correction: On p. 67 of “Olmsted’s Gifts” [March/April], Springfield and South Hadley should have been identified as being part of Western Massachusetts.

EMILY STERNE SCHEBESTA (HOLLANDS); LARA KIMMERER (IRVING)

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Summer Drives

When I was a boy, two of the most welcome summer sounds I knew were the jingle-jangle music of the ice cream truck coming slowly down our neighborhood street, and my father's "Let's go for a drive" after his evening watering of the lawn. Three children, two parents, and a red-and-white Dodge sedan headed to somewhere and nowhere, windows down, hugging curving roads that ran past streams and woods, and when the dark settled we could see the quick flares of fireflies. A small dairy bar with homemade ice cream that was packed into cartons and covered with newspaper was always a final stop. These drives lasted maybe an hour or so, covering at best 25 miles, but of all summer memories they have held on tighter than any. Those five words, "Let's go for a drive," inspired this issue.

The summer drives in "Roads to Riches" [p. 48] range from 28 miles to 100. They are meant for wide-open windows, for stopping often, for looking around, for soaking in a summer day without a clock. They encourage detours. Lingering. Letting the drive be a voyage of discovery.

You might find yourself, as I did, only a dozen miles beyond Portland, pulling into the parking area of GPS tech giant Garmin. There, in the company's lobby, you can stand beneath Eartha, the world's largest rotating globe, and feel both a humbling smallness as well as a deep sense of wonder at the planet we have been given. There will be many lovely scenes to take in, if you follow along with me on my Casco Bay drive—but I promise you will not soon forget your moments with Eartha.

Among the other drives featured in this package, one will take you to the "greenest town in Connecticut." Another will have you winding past orchards and vineyards on the Farm Coast of Rhode Island. In Massachusetts, you will stop often to take in the "Other Cape"—and might end up agreeing that its beaches are even more beautiful than those of its more famous neighboring cape. If you enjoy pulling over for distant vistas, a White Mountains drive in New Hampshire takes you up and over, twisting and turning (and head-turning) all the way. Vermont, meanwhile, has some of the longest stretches of dirt roads in the country, and you will not go wrong seeking them out on detours, just to see what lies ahead.

May these drives fill your summer days with the memories I have held for so long. As you turn the pages here, you will find so many places to see—from a former mill that houses dozens of artisans ["Artful Escapes," p. 70], to nearly 200 editors' picks for *Yankee*'s favorite things to do in New England ["Best of New England," p. 78]. Always with windows down, stopping often. May you enjoy each day.

Mel Allen

Mel Allen
editor@yankeepub.com

The perfect summer drive should include several photo ops you just can't pass up—like Eartha, the world's biggest rotating globe, which *Yankee* editor Mel Allen visited while reporting for this issue's travel feature.

ANNIE GRAVES

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CHRISTINE CAPRIO

Believe in Magic

A reflection on Cape Cod's timeless spells.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALICE YU DENG

Cape Cod taught me this: Sand can dance.

I was 7 years old, peering into the palm of the naturalist who was leading my family's dune buggy tour in the outermost dunes of Provincetown, on Cape Cod. We had disembarked from the buggy for a closer look at the shape-shifting sands that form this otherworldly landscape.

I had sidled closer to the guide in order to hear him when he talked about the dunes being a gift from the glaciers and weather. He asked me to extend my hand with my palm flat and facing the sky. He sprinkled sand into my palm. Then he slowly waved a magnet above the sand grains I was holding so proudly.

And the sand began to dance.

Empirical: The magnet attracted the iron and metallic minerals among the grains of shell and sand. A deft hand could position a strong magnet in such a way that the grains would begin to rise up towards its pull, only to settle back down as the magnet was shuttled away. Back and forth. Back and forth. Bob and bounce. Up and down.

Magical: The sand on Cape Cod dances.

On August nights thunderstorms will rumble over Cape Cod Bay. When I was young, my father would wake me, and we would sit on the porch, silent, watching the magenta and silver and eerie lavender flashes of heat lightning, waiting for an electric zig or zag of piercing white-blue electricity to penetrate the water. Thunder would crack, sometimes close enough that I could feel it in my stomach. Big storms heralded the phosphorescence. On those nights, my father would take my brother and me to water, where we'd take turns finding constellations of light in the waves.

Empirical: The storms did not actually bring bioluminescence into the waves of the bay; rather, they coincided with the hottest part of the summer, when the sea was warmest and dinoflagellates were abundant.

Magical: Cape Cod has fireworks in the sea.

I was 40 when I witnessed the haunting courtship of the fiddler crabs. I was walking on the pale, sandy stretches of beach that trace along the edge of a quiet salt marsh behind the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster. I paused, mesmerized, as hundreds of fiddler crabs emerged from their holes in the sand and stood, each brandishing his—they were all males—giant claw aloft, entirely still save for the rhythm of their waving claws. They then lowered their claws in perfect unison. *Raise up, lower to the carapace. Raise up, lower to the carapace.* At times, a latecomer would join in with raising his claw at a frenetic pace that upset the rhythm of the group until settling into the innate precision that mirrored that of all the crabs on the marsh.

Empirical: What I had seen was the natural phenomenon of *synchrony*. Similar to some frogs and insects, the crabs employ this meditative, and in its own right, seductive, strategy to attract mates. Though perfectly synchronized and blended into the group, they are actually competing with one another.

Magical: I watched, lost in a moment—I could have been there for minutes or millennia—as the sand was gently breathing and the crabs' claws became the ocean's pulse. I was witness to a secret dance, ancient as love.

A few years ago, on my first trip back to Cape Cod after my father passed away, when I crossed the Sagamore Bridge it felt like rushing toward an old friend I had not seen in a long time.

Empirical: Nostalgia, a unique neurological collaboration of memory and reward, is commonly triggered by environmental factors that evoke emotions.

Magical: The Sagamore Bridge is a portal that transports me back to where everything is possible, where sand dances and my father races me to the waves.

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The Sounds of Summer

Music and a bit of magic combine at this decades-old Maine family resort.

By Hilary Nangle

Fortified with recruits from top performing arts schools, the Quisisana staff fills the resort's theater with joyful voices during the Thursday-night musical revue.

Besides the talented stage performers who work at Quisisana, the other showstopper here is lovely Kezar Lake—whether glimpsed from a guest cabin, explored by kayak, or enjoyed with an after-dinner drink as sunset comes on.

RICHELLE SZYPULSKI

In the night, raindrops dance on my cottage roof, waves lap the shore, and a loon cries across the water. This night music is nature's coda to the professional musical performances staged at Quisisana, an all-inclusive, cottage-style family resort edging western Maine's nine-mile-long Kezar Lake.

Guests return here Saturday to Saturday, summer after summer, generation after generation. They welcome newcomers into the fold, swim, sunbathe, water-ski, paddle, sail, play tennis and lawn games, hold porch parties, gather for meals, or simply relax. They marvel at fiery sunsets reflected in the lake, the clarity of the constellations in the night skies, the friendships made, and the sense of community. It's all part of what they call "Quisi magic."

"It's a resort, but it's not a resort. It's fancy but not fancy. It's super-nice and elegant but comfortable," says Tiffany Goldstein, a Cleveland resident who first came on her honeymoon and now returns the same week almost every summer with her husband and kids.

Although the resort's lone TV and only Wi-Fi signal are in the main

Quisisana's onstage lineup spans everything from chamber music to opera to Broadway hits such as "Tap Your Troubles Away" from *Mack & Mabel,* performed with brio by Sean-Michael Bruno, left, and Logan Farley.

lodge, and one must leave the property to find a cell signal, no one seems to mind. Like most guests, I can't resist the allure of the waterfront. Two beaches, Quisi and Sunset, scallop the shoreline between three grassy points—one salted with cottages, the others with chaise lounges. Families favor Quisi Beach. I prefer Sunset Beach, where I read while listening to musicians rehearsing in the lakefront Music Hall.

Quisi, as devotees call it, isn't only a classic family summer resort; it's also a family with music at its heart. The resort stages nine performances each week, including a welcome show that teases the week ahead, piano and chamber recitals, a Broadway musical, a cabaret night, and a children's opera and musical. "The people you bring here as staff are as important as the guests," says artistic director Marshall Taylor, who maintains relationships with and recruits from the nation's top performing arts schools and venues. And since the performers double as waiters and waitresses, beach and boat attendants, kitchen workers and housekeepers, personality is as important as talent. Alumni, many of whom also return season after season, help spread the word.

Potential staffers audition before Taylor and Quisi owners Sam and Nathalie Orans, who met when she came as an opera singer in 1994. Longtime guests and staff credit Sam's mom, the late Jane Orans, for creating a place where guests, performers, and staff were equal parts of the Quisi family. By pairing humbling work with stellar shows, young and budding professionals learn a lot about life and people. "I grow professionally and emotionally here; even the guests teach me," says tenor and waiter Sean-Michael Bruno, grandson of pianist Willie Tee and nephew of saxophonist Earl Turbinton Jr., both legendary New Orleans musicians.

Fostering relationships is Quisi's pixie dust. Young families, multigenerational families, elderly couples, single guests, and staff mix easily on the beach, on the volleyball court, or over a board game or jigsaw puzzle. These daily guest interactions and the intimacy of the performance halls help form lasting bonds.

"I can sing in my apartment, but it feels empty if no one receives it. Onstage here, I know they're feeling it," says Georgia native Joseph McBrayer, a tenor with the Florida Grand Opera who has returned for his second season as a waiter, this time with his girlfriend, soprano Hayley Lipke. "The more I give, the more I get. It's an unbelievable high." That high is shared by the enthralled 5-year-olds sitting in the front row and sucking Tootsie Pops during children's matinees.

Adults enjoy the children's musical and opera (and Tootsie Pops) as much as, if not more than, the kids. I'm equally spellbound by the recitals, opera, concerts, and musicals. I also look forward to dinner, and not just because the food is excellent. When it's someone's special day, the dining room talent gathers around their table and performs a jaw-dropping rendition of "Happy Birthday" or "Happy Anniversary."

Repeat guests might say they're returning for the music or the ease of an all-inclusive vacation on one of Maine's prettiest lakes. But when prodded, they admit it's for that intangible sense of being among family, even if there are no blood ties.

"I don't know that there's another place as enriching and memorable," says Amanda Grant of New Jersey, when we chat after breakfast the last morning. "You take a piece of it with you every time you leave, and that makes you want to come back again and again."

ROBERT STONE

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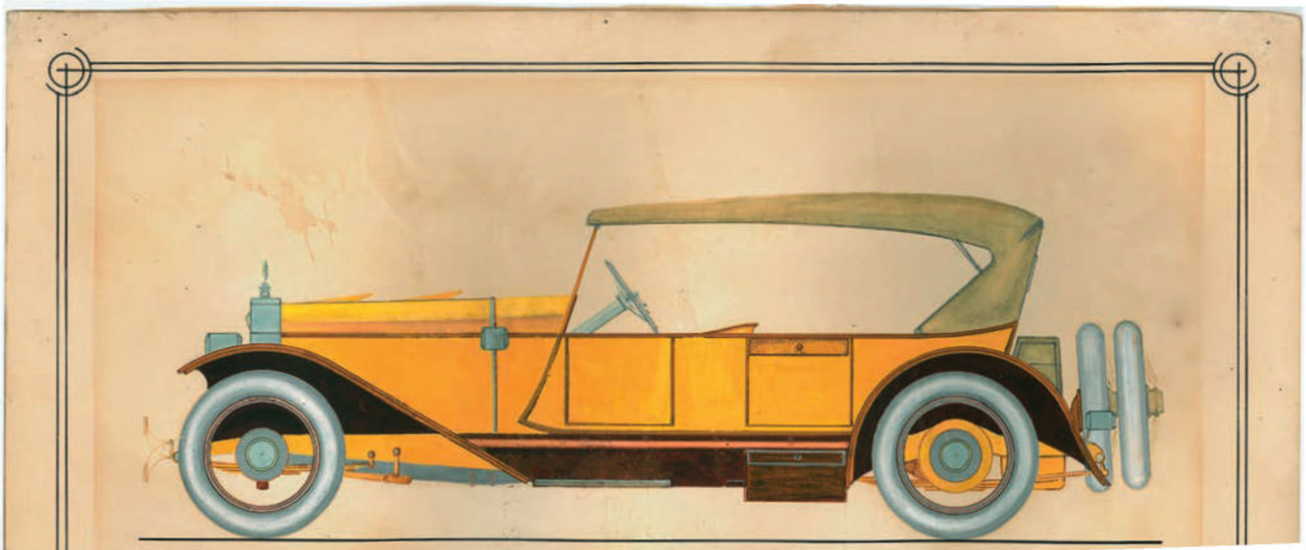

Automotive designer Karl H. Martin c. 1920 with his Vermont-made Martin-Wasp, a true beauty among the "Nickel Era" cars (named for their eye-catching nickel plating).

Haute Wheels

One of the rarest antique cars in the world was made right here in New England.

Karl H. Martin's love affair with cars began when he was only 9, in 1897, when his father put him behind the wheel of their new Columbia Electric, which was one of the first automobiles in their home city of Buffalo, New York. In his twenties, Martin found his calling designing autos in New York City, with his portfolio including work for Kenworthy, Renault, Barley, Owen Magnetic, and Rolls-Royce.

After serving in the Navy during World War I, Martin moved to Bennington, Vermont, where his mother's parents had lived. With local investors he formed the Martin-Wasp Corporation in 1919, hoping to put Vermont auto manufacturing on the map with a car designed to be like no other: the hand-built Martin-Wasp.

His creation had a four-cylinder engine and stylized, sharply pointed fenders. The radiator and headlights were nickeled; the trim and doorsteps were white ash. The interior was red leather, with a dashboard of aluminum and inlaid wood. The first Martin-Wasp was bought by silent-screen star Douglas Fairbanks Sr., who saw it displayed in a New York hotel. He paid $5,500 (roughly $81,600 today) and shipped it to his Hollywood estate.

A car historian described the Wasp as "a rather startling beauty without sacrificing utility and at the same time, avoiding eccentricity." Despite its virtues, only 11 had been sold by the end of 1922, when Martin announced a more powerful six-cylinder model, priced at $10,000 ($148,400 today). At the time, only Rolls-Royce and Locomobile were selling more-expensive cars.

But after a would-be purchaser died unexpectedly, the canceled order set Martin's overextended company into a tailspin from which it would not recover. In 1925, after only six years, the Martin-Wasp was no more. Martin kept the partially finished car, storing parts in a barn, then years later selling it to Ohio collector Henry Marvin Dodge in 1953. Dodge rebuilt the car from the barn-salvaged parts and original blueprints. Martin, who died in 1954, never saw Dodge's resurrected showpiece. But you can. The car, one of just three remaining Wasps, was donated to the Bennington Museum in 1982. —*Joe Bills*

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THE BIG CHE

With a new Boston restaurant and growing celebrity, Tiffani Faison is still hungry for more. By Amy Traverso

PHOTOS BY ADAM DETOUR
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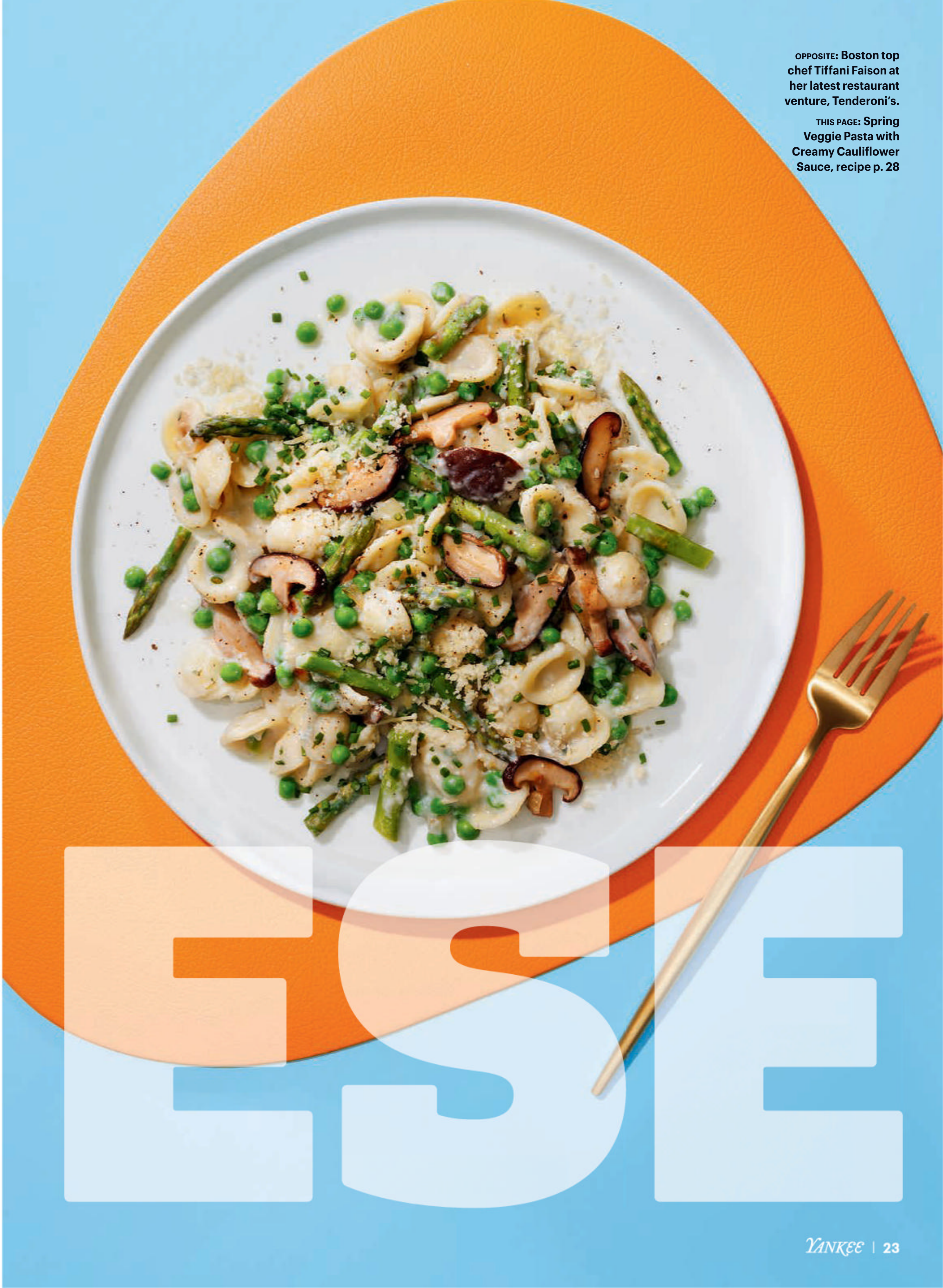

OPPOSITE: Boston top chef Tiffani Faison at her latest restaurant venture, Tenderoni's.

THIS PAGE: Spring Veggie Pasta with Creamy Cauliflower Sauce, recipe p. 28

ESE

Chef Tiffani Faison is featured on the latest season of *WEEKENDS WITH YANKEE,* now airing on public television stations across the country. To find out how to watch, go to *weekendswithyankee.com*.

LEFT: Spring Veggies with Taleggio *Fonduta* Dip, recipe p. 26

ABOVE: Grilled Chicken Thighs with Salsa Verde, recipe p. 26

Tiffani Faison is ready to work. It's midwinter, two days before a scheduled trip to California to film episodes of the Food Network's *Guy's Grocery Games,* on which she regularly competes against other chefs. Later today, she's scheduled a pickleball lesson to prepare for a celebrity tournament at the South Beach Wine and Food Festival. But right now, she's here to film a segment for *Weekends with Yankee*, and she strolls in TV-ready, wearing her standard black Carhartt jumpsuit, her good lashes, and a high ponytail with beachy waves—speaking of which, she's also on the Food Network's *Beachside Brawl*. Oh, and she's a regular judge on *Chopped* and winner of *Tournament of Champions*, too. Point being: She's very busy and kind of a big deal.

We meet at the newest of Faison's six Boston restaurants, Tenderoni's. It's her take on modern Italian-American, a disco-Parmesan fantasy complete with a roller skate wall, a neon ceiling sign that spells out "Cheesy," fresh takes on meatballs and piccata, and a signature pizza that's not quite Sicilian, not quite Detroit-style, but all delicious. It's in the Fenway neighborhood, where she opened her first restaurant, a neighborhood that was, as she puts it, "full of gas stations, liquor stores, and gay bars" before she (and property developers) began transforming it into a destination beyond the baseball park. Tenderoni's is equal parts quality and camp, the latter a salute to those lost gay bars. "All my restaurants in some way or another are always gonna nod to our LGBTQ community," she says. "I want this to feel like a space where everyone belongs."

From her first job at a soda fountain at age 14, Faison has performed every possible restaurant role. I first heard about her in 2007, when she took over the reins at Rocca in the South End, injecting it with ideas that would've put it on the national map if the economy hadn't soon bottomed out. She was young and ambitious, a runner-up on the first season of *Top Chef* in 2006. And when investors began offering to write checks for her next move, she was poised to open a little bistro that would serve as a temple to her culinary *sensibilités*. Instead, she opened a barbecue joint called Sweet Cheeks Q.

"At first, I was looking for that eponymous restaurant where I'd say, 'Now you can see what an incredible chef I am. I'll show you all,'" she laughs. "Frankly, thinking back, it's embarrassing that I thought that way. I just couldn't find the right space. Then my broker told me to look at a large space in the Fenway that was closing, and I said, 'Absolutely not.' But I walked in and it just came over me. I went home and in 20 minutes I had the name, the menu, it was done. And it turned out that it was a really good first restaurant for me. I learned about consistency, I learned about business, and I learned it's not about me. To watch people come into a space, sit down with their family and their friends, have barbecue sauce on their face, laughing, you know, napkins everywhere. I learned what restaurants really should be."

With Sweet Cheeks' success, she created Big Heart Hospitality group, going on to open six other restaurants. Boston is where she's lived longer than any other place. And the city loves her back because, rather than using it as a springboard to New York or L.A., she chose to stay.

After Faison and I film our opening segment, we head into Fool's Errand to cook together. What she's come up with is gnocchi with taleggio *fonduta*, an Italian sauce similar to Swiss fondue but much lighter in texture. To break up the richness, she's added a salsa verde drizzle. She gets started on the gnocchi, pulling the flesh out of potatoes that a prep cook had baked off hours before. As she works them through a food mill, her mouth sets in a hard line. The potatoes have sat too long, making them too moist. The easy-breezy side of her personality, the one that came with maturity and success and effort, briefly cracks to reveal the perfectionistic striver that pushed her up through all those kitchens, a young woman among men. She cranks the food mill so hard I have to hold it down over the bowl.

And still, the gnocchi are … extraordinary. The most delicious thing that I've had in months. When the cameras stop rolling, the crew pounces. We sing hosannas. She's gracious but not satisfied.

Later she'll reply to an email, ending with "Sorry I f'ed up the gnocchi." I swear again that they were perfect. But I know she's not convinced. She knows that the secret to her success is to never settle. Lucky for us, she never does.

The following recipes are inspired by the gnocchi but adapted for the home kitchen, with late spring vegetables at the center. The *fonduta* becomes a dip for blanched veggies, the salsa verde goes on grilled chicken thighs. The pasta dish is easy enough for everyday. And the lemon possets are courtesy of head pastry chef Deanne Steffen Chinn.

SPRING VEGGIES WITH TALEGGIO *FONDUTA* DIP

FOR THE VEGETABLES

Kosher salt, for the water
5 carrots, peeled, cut into sticks
10 asparagus stalks, trimmed
10 red-skinned new potatoes, halved
20 green beans, trimmed
Additional seasonal vegetables, as desired

FOR THE DIP

3 tablespoons salted butter
½ cup finely diced onions
1 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more to taste
4 garlic cloves, very finely minced
¼ cup dry white wine
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
2 cups half-and-half
¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
4 ounces Taleggio cheese (thick rinds removed, thin rinds OK)
Chopped parsley, chives, and/or other fresh herbs

Fill a 4- or 5-quart pot with water and set over high heat. Add a generous amount of salt and bring to a boil. Set a bowl of ice water next to your stove.

Drop the carrots into the boiling water and cook until crisp-tender, about 1 to 2 minutes. Remove and immediately plunge into the cold water to stop the cooking. Drain and set aside. Repeat this process with the rest of the vegetables. The asparagus will take about 1 minute, the potatoes 8 to 10 minutes, and the green beans about 2 minutes.

Now, make the *fonduta* dip: In a 3- or 4-quart pot over medium heat, melt the butter and cook the onion until it's just translucent, about 3 minutes. Season with salt, add the minced garlic and cook, stirring, for about 2 minutes. Stir in the white wine, scraping any browned bits off the bottom of the pan, and simmer until it's reduced by two thirds, about 2 to 3 minutes.

Add the flour, stirring with a rubber spatula until you have a thick paste. Add the half-and-half and cook, stirring with a whisk, until the mixture thickens, about 4 to 5 minutes. Add the cheeses, whisking to combine. Gently simmer for another 10 minutes, stirring frequently (reduce heat to medium-low if the mixture seems too hot to avoid scorching the bottom).

Use a blender or immersion blender to produce a creamy, silky sauce and season with salt and pepper to taste. Pour into a bowl, garnish with herbs, and serve warm with the vegetables for dipping. *Yields 4 to 6 servings.*

GRILLED CHICKEN THIGHS WITH SALSA VERDE

FOR THE SALSA VERDE

½ cup finely chopped parsley
¼ cup minced chives
¼ cup minced shallots
2 medium garlic cloves, very finely minced
2 tablespoons capers with their juices, chopped
2 teaspoons honey
½ cup champagne vinegar (rice vinegar also works well)
¾ cup extra-virgin olive oil
⅓ teaspoon red chili flakes
Kosher salt, to taste

FOR THE CHICKEN

1 tablespoon kosher salt
1 tablespoon cracked black pepper
8 skin-on chicken thighs, boneless or bone-in

First, make the salsa verde: In a large bowl, whisk all the ingredients together. Add salt to taste and more vinegar if needed. Set aside. (The salsa verde may be made up to 3 days in

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advance and refrigerated; allow to come to room temperature before serving.)

Sprinkle the chicken thighs all over with salt and pepper and let them rest for 15 minutes. Meanwhile, set up your grill for medium direct heat. Set the chicken thighs, skin-side down, on the grate. Cook, covered, for 6 minutes, then turn and cook until the internal temperature reads 165°, about 4 more minutes (about 9 minutes for bone-in). Transfer to a platter to cool for 5 minutes. Just before serving, drizzle with the salsa verde and serve extra sauce on the side. *Yields 4 to 6 servings.*

Lemon Possets with Mascarpone Cream

SPRING VEGGIE PASTA WITH CREAMY CAULIFLOWER SAUCE

1 tablespoon plus 2 tablespoons salted butter
1 cup sliced mushrooms (any type)
Kosher salt, to taste
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 small onion, diced
4 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
1 tablespoon fresh thyme, chopped
3 cups chopped cauliflower
4 cups milk
1 cup shelled peas (thawed if frozen)
½ cup chopped asparagus (tender green parts only)
3 cups orecchiette pasta, cooked and cooled
2 tablespoons minced chives
Freshly ground black pepper
Freshly grated Parmesan

In a small frying pan over medium-high heat, melt 1 tablespoon of butter and sear the mushrooms until nicely browned and crisped at the edges on one side, 4 to 5 minutes. Season to taste with salt. Stir the mushrooms and continue cooking until golden brown all over, 3 to 4 more minutes. Set aside.

In a 4-quart saucepan over medium-low heat, add butter and oil. When the butter has melted, add the onion, garlic, and thyme and cook, stirring occasionally until soft, about 6 minutes. Add the cauliflower and milk, increase heat to medium high and bring just to a boil, then reduce to medium-low and simmer until the cauliflower is soft enough to fall apart, about 20 minutes.

Using a standing or immersion blender, puree the cauliflower mixture until completely smooth, then season with salt to taste. Return the sauce to the pot and set over medium-low heat. Add the peas and asparagus and simmer until just tender, about 4 minutes. Meanwhile, reheat the mushrooms over medium-high heat in the frying pan for about a minute. Add the pasta to the saucepan and stir to warm through, gently breaking up any pasta stuck together. It may initially seem like too much sauce for the pasta, but the sauce will thicken. Season to taste, and arrange in a serving bowl. Garnish with the seared mushrooms, chives, black pepper, and plenty of Parmesan. *Yields 4 servings.*

LEMON POSSETS WITH MASCARPONE CREAM

FOR THE POSSETS

2⅓ cups heavy cream
¾ cup granulated sugar
6 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

FOR THE MASCARPONE CREAM

½ cup mascarpone cheese
¼ cup powdered sugar
¾ cup heavy cream
Fresh raspberries

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, bring the cream and sugar to a boil, stirring constantly. Continue boiling for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally and adjusting the heat as needed to ensure that the cream doesn't scorch on the bottom of the pan or boil over.

Remove the cream mixture from the heat. Stir in the lemon juice and vanilla extract. Let the mixture cool for 10 minutes, then stir well and divide the mixture evenly among four ramekins or glasses of your choice (they should hold about 8 ounces each). Cover each posset with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 4 hours and up to overnight.

Just before serving, make the mascarpone cream: In the bowl of a stand mixer with a whisk attachment (or using a handheld mixer), whip mascarpone and powdered sugar at medium-high speed for 1 minute. Use a rubber spatula to scrape the sides of the bowl. While at medium speed, slowly pour in the heavy cream. Once all the cream is added, scrape the bowl again. Whip the cream until medium stiff peaks form.

To serve, dollop or pipe the whipped mascarpone cream onto the possets and garnish with the fresh raspberries. *Yields 4 servings.*

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Strawberry-Rhubarb Crisp

Strawberries

Two easy-to-make sweet treats in honor of the first fruits of summer.

BY AMY TRAVERSO

STYLED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY LIZ NEILY

Amy Traverso is *Yankee*'s senior food editor and cohost of our TV show, *Weekends with Yankee.*

My first real summer job was agricultural, working the cash register at a pick-your-own strawberry farm in the Farmington River Valley of Connecticut. The managers often sent us out into the fields to direct pickers to the most ripe-and-ready rows, and there wasn't much to do out there in the hot sun except make up your modest salary in fresh fruit, discreetly wiped clean on your shirt and hulled with a thumbnail.

Maybe it was all that fresh-from-the-field eating that makes me prefer rustic strawberry desserts, like the strawberry-rhubarb crisp pictured at left. I love how the silky textures of the rhubarb and strawberries complement each other, and how a dash of cinnamon plays so nicely with the fruit. The juices bubble up and over the topping, and I could eat this dish every day in June.

On the opposite end of the food spectrum is a highly processed and highly addictive treat: classic Rice Krispies spiffed up with freeze-dried berries. They're no-bake, pretty, and fun to pack into the last lunch boxes of the year. Happy summer!

STRAWBERRY-RHUBARB CRISP

This is a classic dish, very easy to throw together with just a little bit of prep. If you're making it with juicy local berries, you'll want to add the full two tablespoons of cornstarch as a thickener; supermarket berries need less.

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Strawberry Rice Krispie Bars

FOR THE FILLING

7	cups (about 2 pounds) hulled and sliced strawberries (¾-inch-thick slices)
6	cups (about 1½ pounds) sliced rhubarb (1-inch pieces)
¾	cup granulated sugar
1½-2	tablespoons cornstarch
1	teaspoon ground cinnamon

FOR THE TOPPING

1	cup all-purpose flour
½	cup rolled oats (also called old-fashioned oats)
½	cup firmly packed light brown sugar
½	cup granulated sugar
½	teaspoon ground cinnamon
½	teaspoon kosher salt
7	tablespoons chilled salted butter, cut into small pieces

Preheat your oven to 350°F and set a rack to the middle position.

First, make the filling: Put the strawberries and rhubarb into a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Sprinkle the sugar, cornstarch, and cinnamon over the fruit, then use a spatula to stir everything together.

Next, make the topping: In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, oats, sugars, cinnamon, and salt. Sprinkle the butter pieces over the dry mixture and use your fingers or a pastry cutter to work the butter in until the mixture has the texture of chunky wet sand.

Sprinkle the topping over the fruit, and bake until the fruit is bubbling and the top is golden brown, about 1 hour. Serve warm, with or without a scoop of ice cream. *Yields 6 to 8 servings.*

STRAWBERRY RICE KRISPIE BARS

My sister-in-law, Shira, taught me that the key to perfect Rice Krispie bars is to let the melted marshmallow mixture cool just a bit before adding the cereal. If it's too hot, the rice gets mushy. The addition of freeze-dried strawberries is just a fun and pretty bonus and a massive hit with my own family. I also like a dash of flaky sea salt on top for contrast, but feel free to skip that step if you don't have it on hand.

1½	cups freeze-dried strawberries
3	tablespoons salted butter, plus more for greasing the pan and spatula
1	10-ounce package (or 5½ cups) mini marshmallows
6	cups Rice Krispies cereal
	Flaky sea salt, for sprinkling (optional)

Put the dried strawberries into a zip-top bag, then run a rolling pin over them until the largest pieces are about ½ inch in size (they won't be uniform—don't worry). There will be dust in the bag: Reserve most of this and set aside to sprinkle over the top later.

Grease a 9-by-13-inch pan with butter. Set aside.

In a 4- or 5-quart pot over low heat, melt the 3 tablespoons butter, then add the mini marshmallows. Cook, stirring often, until the marshmallows are fully melted. Remove pot from heat and let sit for 2 minutes to cool.

Using a buttered rubber spatula, stir in the Rice Krispies and the freeze-dried strawberries until evenly combined. Butter the spatula once more, transfer the mixture into your prepared pan, then press into an even layer. Sprinkle with the reserved strawberry dust. Cool to room temperature. Just before serving, sprinkle lightly with the flaky sea salt, if using. Cut into 12 bars and serve. *Yields 12 servings.*

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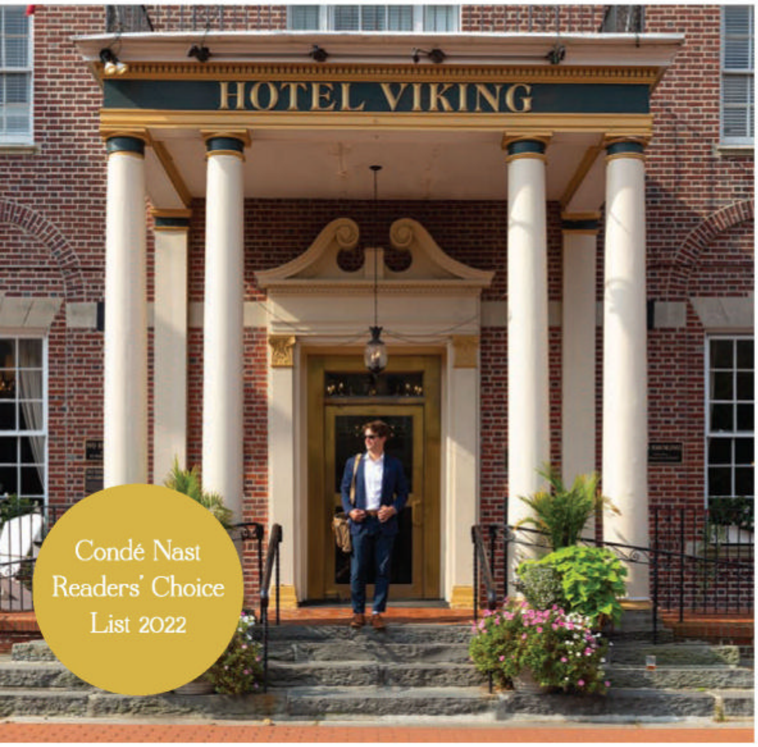

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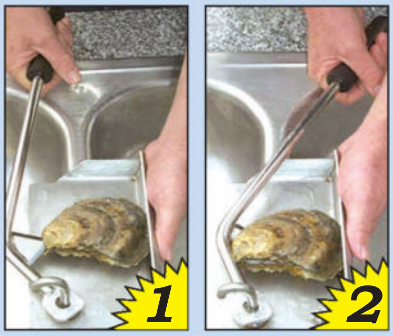

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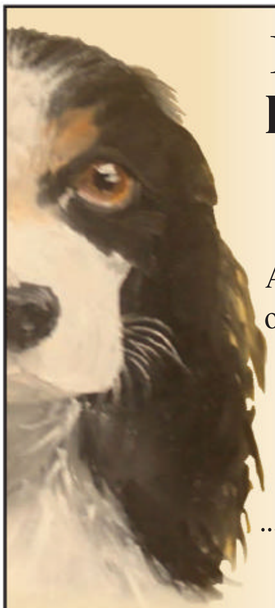

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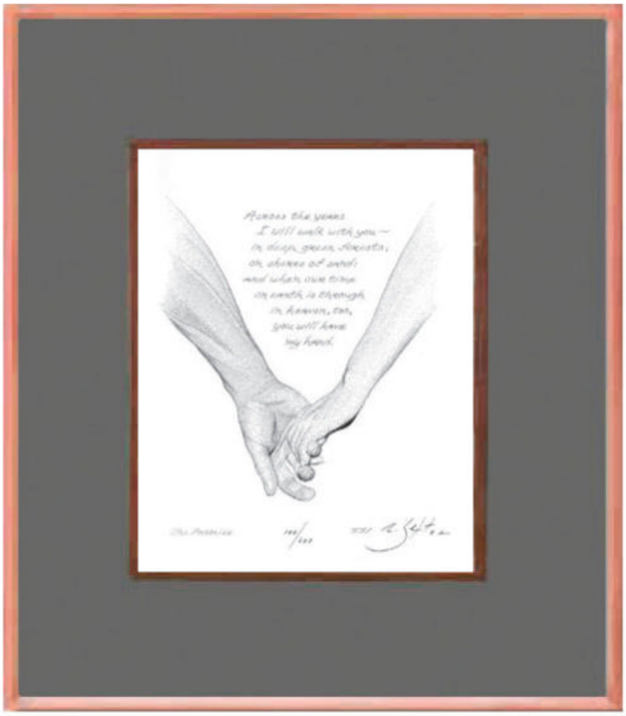
The Promise

A Most Unusual Gift of Love



THE POEM READS:

"Across the years I will walk with you–
in deep, green forests; on shores of sand:
and when our time on earth is through,
in heaven, too, you will have my hand."

Dear Reader,

The drawing you see above is called *The Promise*. It is completely composed of dots of ink. After writing the poem, I worked with a quill pen and placed thousands of these dots, one at a time, to create this gift in honor of my youngest brother and his wife.

Now, I have decided to offer *The Promise* to those who share and value its sentiment. Each litho is numbered and signed by hand and precisely captures the detail of the drawing. As a wedding, anniversary or Valentine's gift or simply as a standard for your own home, I believe you will find it most appropriate.

Measuring 14" by 16", it is available either fully-framed in a subtle copper tone with hand-cut double mats of pewter and rust at $145*, or in the mats alone at $105*. Please add $21.95 for insured shipping. Returns/exchanges within 30 days.

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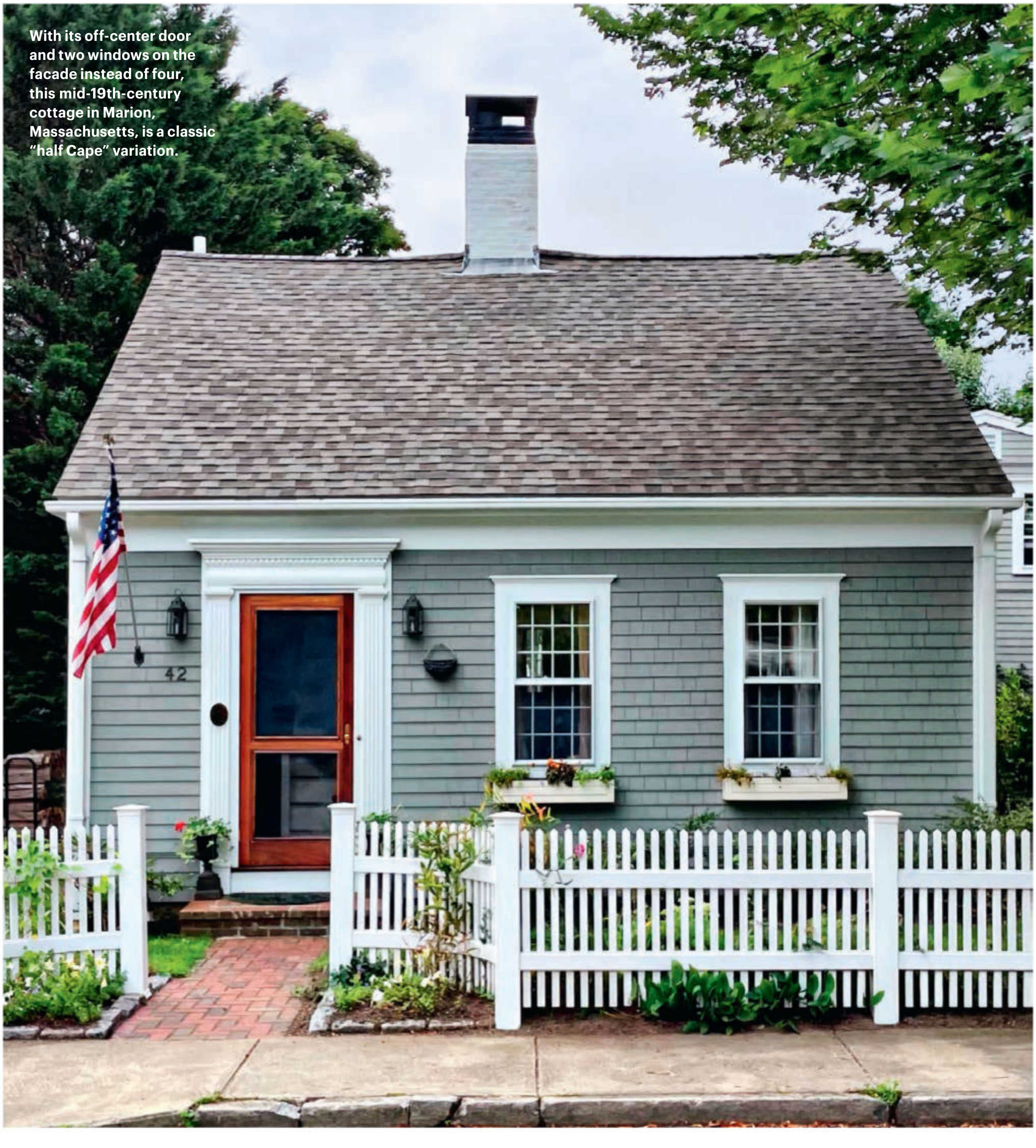
BUILT TO LAST

Year in and year out, nothing says New England like a Cape Cod house. **BY BRUCE IRVING**



With its off-center door and two windows on the facade instead of four, this mid-19th-century cottage in Marion, Massachusetts, is a classic "half Cape" variation.

BUILDINGS OF NEW ENGLAND

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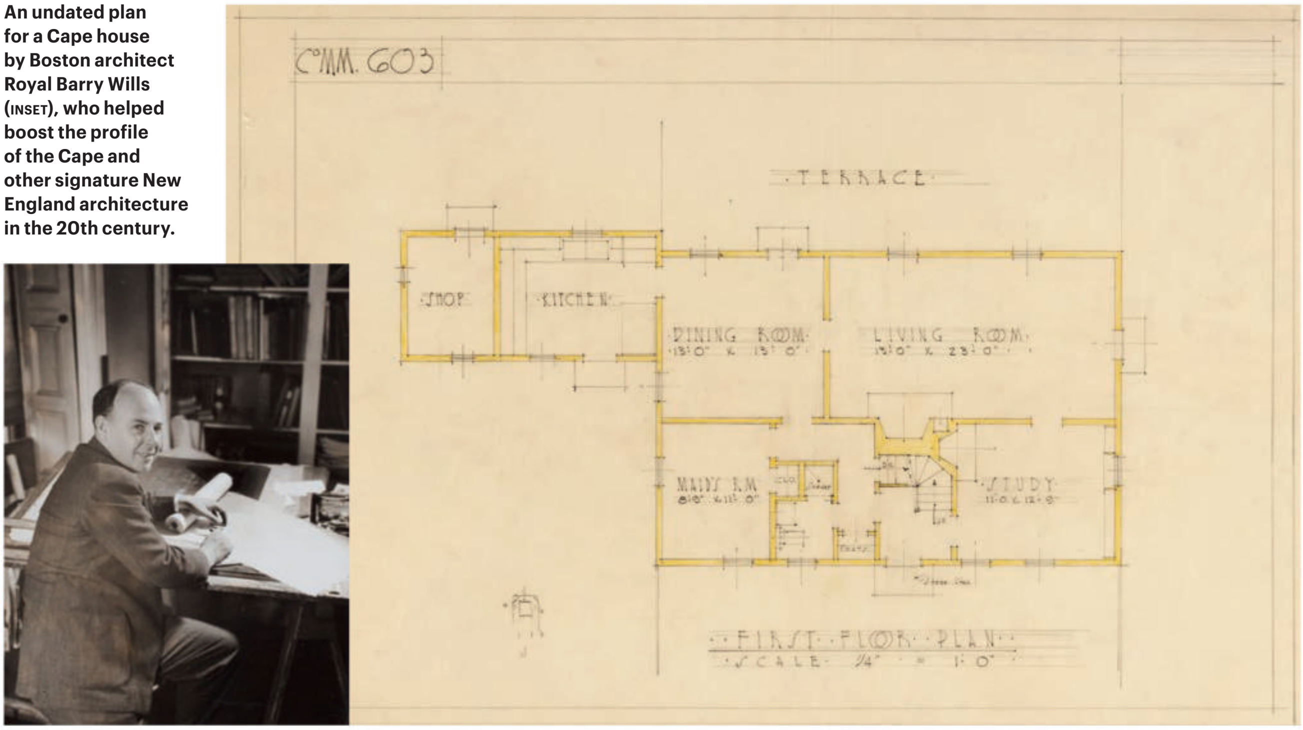
If, as Orson Welles said, “the enemy of art is the absence of limitations,” the Cape Cod house grew up in a very art-friendly environment. Faced with harsh weather, modest means, and the pressing need to scratch out a living, New England’s coastal colonists put together structures with nary a false note or extraneous brush stroke. The result is an iconic housing type that has stood the test of time, from elegantly simple originals, many of which still stand, to the crank-’em-out versions of Levittown to graceful midcentury interpretations by architect Royal Barry Wills to the little green tokens we trade for hotels in Monopoly. The style is so ubiquitous, in fact, that if you ask an American child to draw a house, chances are pretty high you’ll get a crayoned image of a Cape.

Those early Puritan housewrights, many from the southwest of England, brought with them a somewhat different model: tall, narrow, half-timbered houses topped with thatched roofs. Adapting their design to the much-tougher New England climate, they switched to overlapping pine shingles, lowered the roofline, pulled in the eaves, and drew the floorplan into more of a square, presenting a wind-cheating profile with a waterproof skin and less exterior wall per square foot of interior space. It’s as though every decision was subjected to a kind of Darwinian test, with any move unable to justify itself over time jettisoned for profligacy.

Living conditions were particularly tough out on Cape Cod, where the soil was thin, the trees in short supply, and the winds often extreme. That didn’t guarantee that this house type would be invented there, but it certainly flourished. The style didn’t get its place-specific name until a Yale president named Timothy Dwight christened it thus in an 1821 book called *Travels in New England and New York*. “The houses in Yarmouth are inferior to those in Barnstable,” he opined, “and much more generally of the class which may be called with propriety Cape Cod houses.”

He described a building easily recognizable to today’s visitor: “These have one story and four rooms on the lower floor, and are covered on the sides, as well as the roofs, with pine shingles, eighteen inches in length. The chimney is in the middle immediately behind the front door, and on each side of the door are two windows. The roof is straight. Under it are two



An undated plan for a Cape house by Boston architect Royal Barry Wills (INSET), who helped boost the profile of the Cape and other signature New England architecture in the 20th century.

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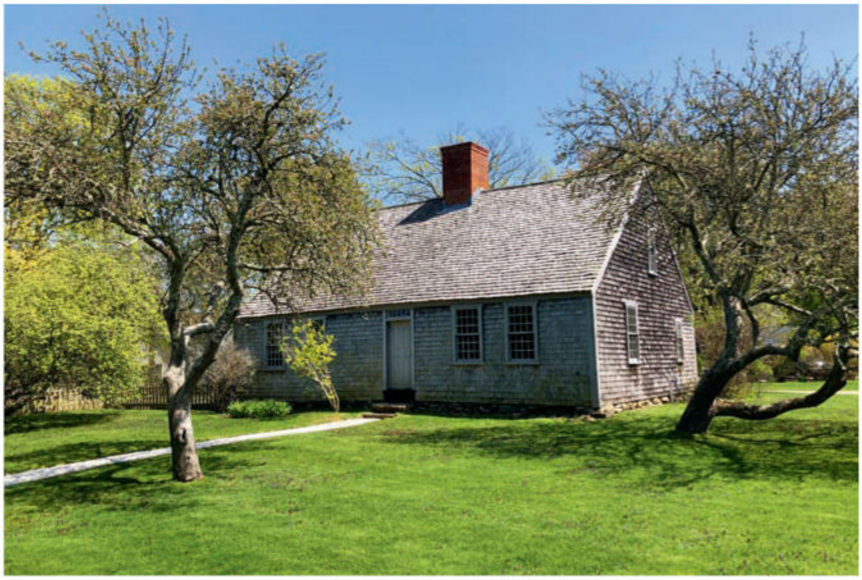


LEFT: Commonly known as the Vincent House, this Cape Cod home was built in 1672 and is the oldest surviving residence on the Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard. Home to the Vincent family for eight generations, it is now owned and maintained by the Vineyard Trust as a museum.

BELOW: A midcentury ad for a Cape-inspired style called "The Provincetown."

chambers, and there are two larger and two smaller windows in the gable end."

For the colonists, what spelled home was often a very humble affair. Capes are commonly grouped into one of three categories—half, three-quarter, and full—describing, respectively, a small building with a door and a pair of windows to its side; one with an extra window flanking the door; and a larger, symmetrical home with the door in the middle. But Claire Dempsey, who taught architectural history at Boston University for more than three decades, points out that early descriptions were subtly but tellingly different: "house," "house and a half," and "double house."

"To me, that means that the old-timers were happy to call that smallest building a proper home," she says. Nonetheless, many owners made a perhaps un-Puritan decision to add even a single embellishment, usually gracing a front doorway with a stylistic flourish of the day—a set of fluted Federal pilasters, for example, or a Greek Revival pediment.

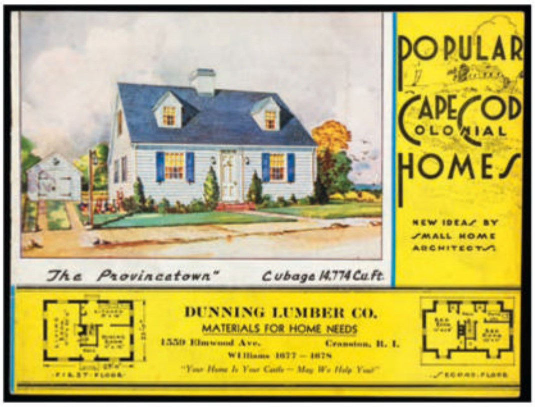
When Wills, the Boston architect who is credited with deftly reviving the style in the 1930s, began his work, he imitated not only the originals' massing and details, but also their size. According to architect Stanley Schuler, 250 years ago the average Cape was about 1,600 square feet; Wills's early Capes were about the same. But by the 1980s, when Schuler asked Richard Wills, who had taken over his father's business, to point him toward some of the firm's recent work, Wills warned him, "You may not recognize many of them, because they stretch for 100 feet and more."

Although Capes are increasingly the victims of suburban "scrape jobs," bulldozed to free up their lots for maximal McMansions, many contractors still build them. From the bespoke versions put up by modern reproduction firms to custom builders throughout the region, the style survives and thrives, sometimes in the most contemporary ways. ZeroEnergy Design, also in Boston, specializes in cutting-edge energy-efficient homes, often achieving net-zero buildings (making as much energy as they consume).

A compact 1,200-square-foot house that the firm designed for clients in Little Compton, Rhode Island, embodies the Cape spirit. "The traditional Cape Cod plan lends itself to the efficiencies of super-insulated homes, with a compact form and resourceful use of space," says ZeroEnergy managing director and architect Stephanie Horowitz. "The short or absent overhangs allow us to wrap a house with continuous insulation. In other styles, longer overhangs can create a thermal bridge at a notoriously weak point where the roof meets the wall. Not so with a Cape."

But Royal Barry Wills may have had the best explanation of why the Cape style lives on. They're "as unpretentious as they are livable," he said. "Carping critics may poke fun at their rambler roses, picket fences and stately elms, but such things spell home to us."

Bruce Irving is a Massachusetts-based renovation consultant and real estate agent who also served as the producer of This Old House *for nearly two decades. This article is adapted and updated from "The Gifts of New England," in* Yankee's *September/October 2015 issue.*



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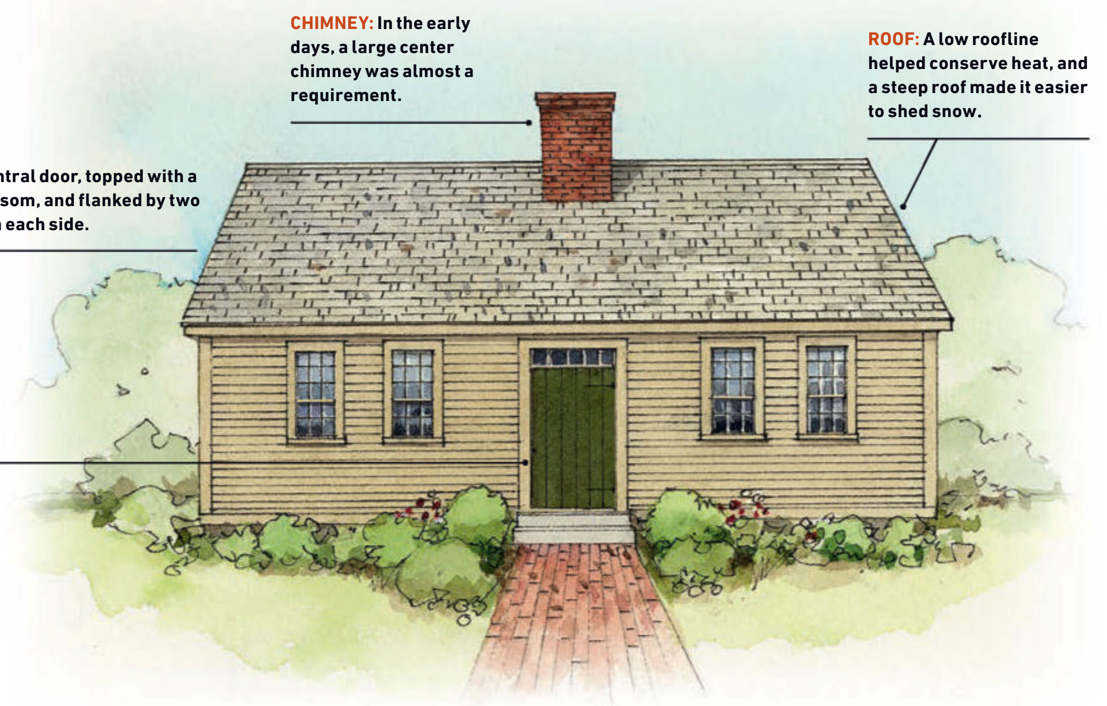
NEW ENGLAND ARCHITECTURE 101

THE CAPE COD HOUSE

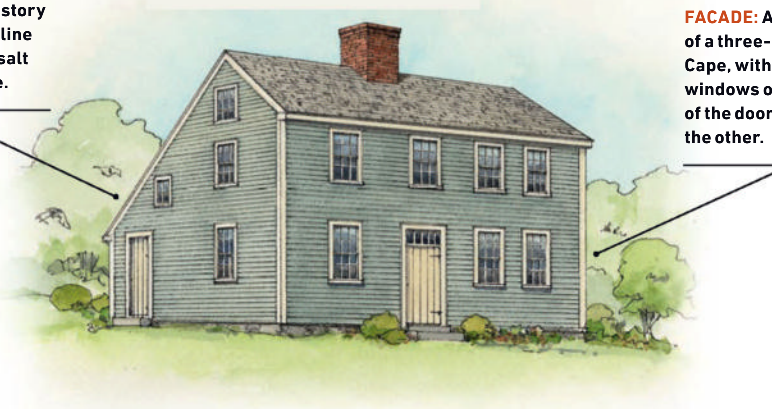


CHIMNEY: In the early days, a large center chimney was almost a requirement.

ROOF: A low roofline helped conserve heat, and a steep roof made it easier to shed snow.

DOOR: A central door, topped with a simple transom, and flanked by two windows on each side.

THE SALTBOX



REAR: Adding square footage to the back of an existing two-story home, the long sloping roofline resembled period wooden salt containers, hence the name.

FACADE: An example of a three-quarter Cape, with two windows on one side of the door, and one on the other.

Early Colonial homes may have been designed simple and solid to withstand harsh New England winters, but our fondness for the classic 1½-story Cape Cod variant—with its steep roof, center chimney, and symmetrical five-bay facade—has endured hand in hand with the white picket fence. Similarly of its time is the slant-roofed "saltbox," a Cape home expanded in the back to increase living or storage space.

Time Period: Originally 1690–1850, but with a big 20th-century revival

Characteristics: Small, modest, and undeniably homey

Famous Example: It's hard to find a more perfect historic Cape than the 1672 Vincent House and Gardens on Martha's Vineyard. Now a museum, it's the oldest surviving residence on the island.

Where to Find Cape Cod Homes: Anywhere and everywhere throughout New England

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROB LEANNA

And look for the next New England Architecture 101 in July/August: The Shingle-Style Home

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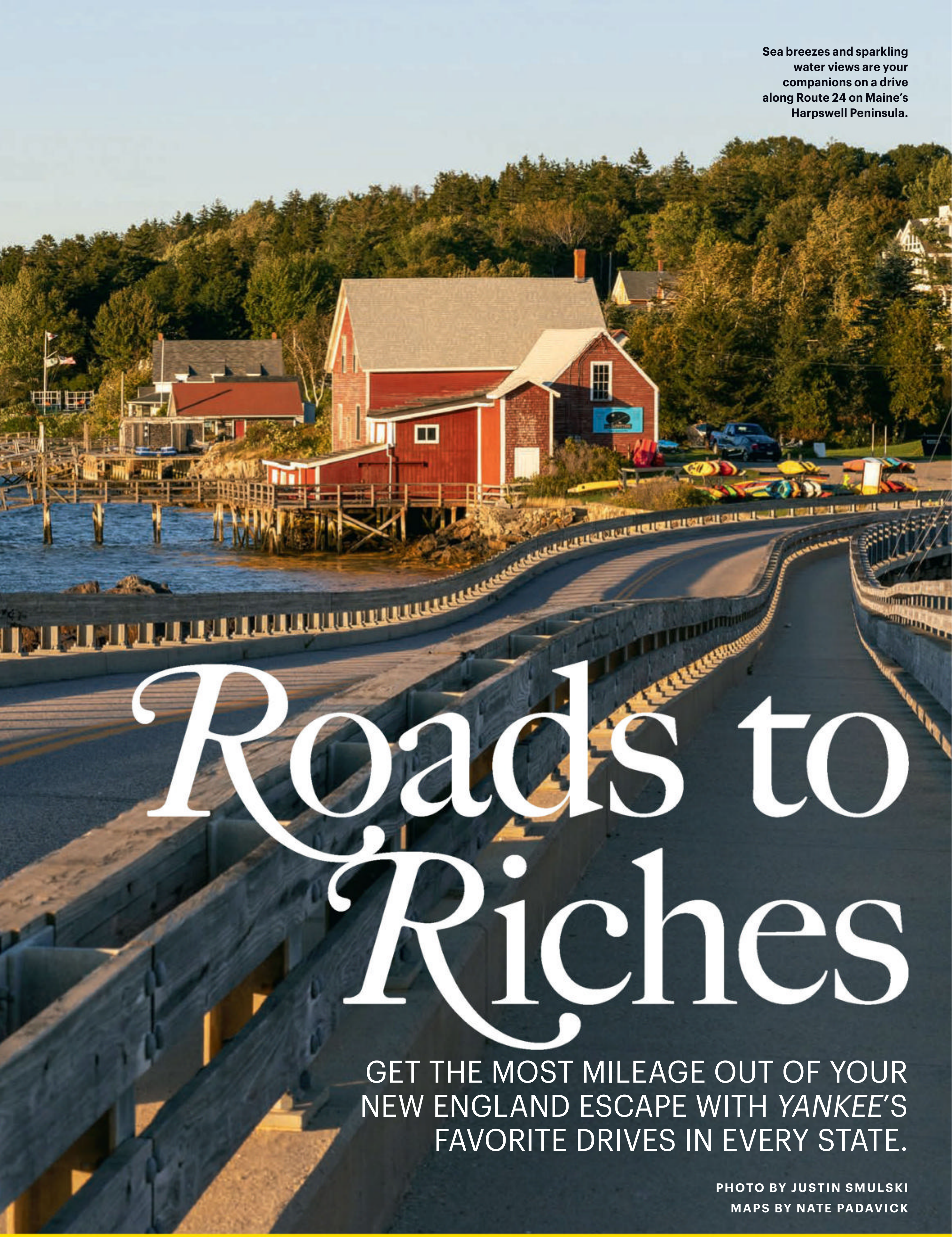

Sea breezes and sparkling water views are your companions on a drive along Route 24 on Maine's Harpswell Peninsula.

Roads to Riches

GET THE MOST MILEAGE OUT OF YOUR NEW ENGLAND ESCAPE WITH *YANKEE'S* FAVORITE DRIVES IN EVERY STATE.

PHOTO BY JUSTIN SMULSKI
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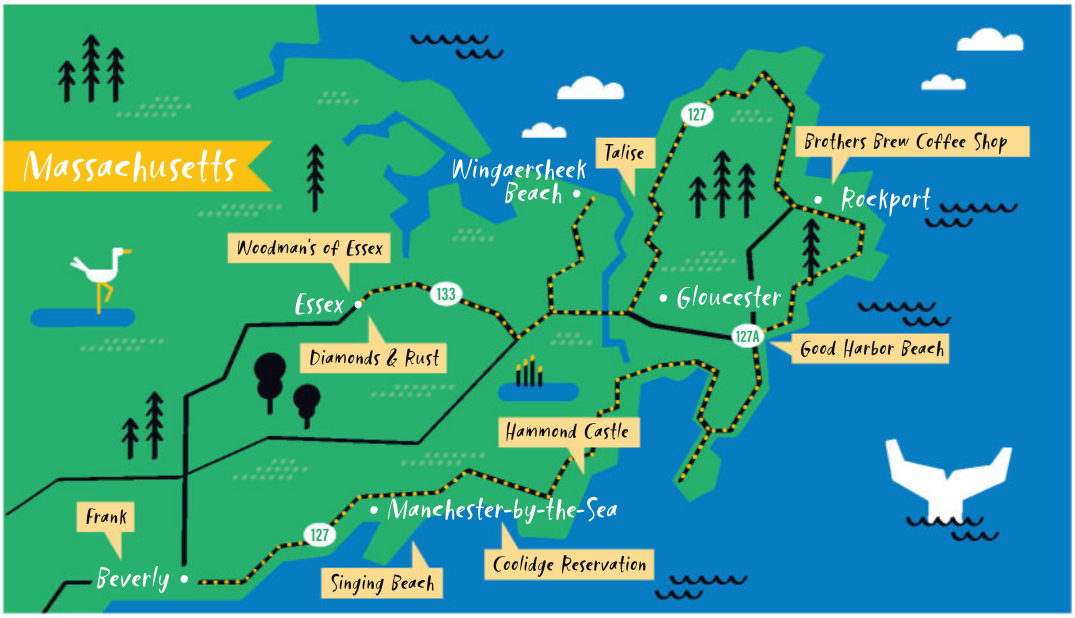


GOOD HARBOR BEACH, GLOUCESTER

CRUISING THE COAST

Exploring Massachusetts's "Other Cape."

This 40-mile journey begins on Route 127 in Beverly, the bustling gateway to Cape Ann, where suburban density gradually gives way to winding roads and saltbox colonials. This is the "Other Cape," a peninsula of fishing ports, villages, farms, beaches, Gilded Age estates, and fried clams. The geography of this coast—part granite ledges, part sandy shores—evokes Midcoast Maine more than Cape Cod, and we'd argue that the beaches are more dramatically beautiful here than on the bigger cape. That's one of many reasons to take a summer drive here; another is this year's 400th anniversary celebration of Gloucester's founding, with tours, concerts, and festivals throughout the summer.

From Beverly, the road skims the scenic shoreline before heading inland toward Beverly Farms, the neighborhood that gave Beverly Hills its name (Burton Green, an investor, chose it to honor his hometown). A few miles down the road, Manchester-by-the-Sea boasts a picture-book town center that's worth exploring on foot and the sandy crescent of Singing Beach, which allows visitors to park (for a fee) on summer weekdays.

Between Manchester-by-the-Sea and Gloucester, the Coolidge Reservation is a Trustees-managed property overlooking the Atlantic, and just after that, a right fork off the state highway will bring you through the charming hamlet of Magnolia, which is well worth the detour—as is the stately Hammond Castle Museum, a bit farther up the coast. Then you'll find yourself in downtown Gloucester, where the working waterfront bumps up against a luxe hotel, historic art colonies still leave their mark, and summer people and locals share in the natural beauty. Here, town beaches are open to the public, with passes available for purchase online (book early).

Following the shore will take you around Gloucester's beautiful Eastern Point and past Good Harbor Beach, then through idyllic Rockport—a town shaped by the sea, by the granite quarries that helped build New York and San Francisco, and by the artists who have long called it home. Heading back to the highway, you can loop north to boulder-dotted Wingaersheek Beach and linger to watch the sun set into the waters of Ipswich Bay. But don't miss the chance to visit the old shipbuilding town of Essex on its namesake river, where you can dine on fried clams where they were (by all accounts) invented, shop for antiques and artisan goods, kayak through the marshlands, and learn the history of the schooners that powered New England's fishing industry. —*Amy Traverso*

ADAM DETOUR (BEACH)

STOPS ALONG THE WAY

Frank, BEVERLY: Fuel up with a breakfast sandwich and coffee at star chef Frank McClelland's combination market, café, and full-service restaurant, which takes its inspiration from local fisheries and farms (including McClelland's own Apple Street Farm in Essex). *farmtofrank.com*

Singing Beach, MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA: Named for the unique squeaking sound that the sand makes as you stroll along the waterline, Singing Beach lets you soak up the sun while gazing out at the whimsically named offshore boulders and micro-islands (Little Salt, Rock Dundy, Boohoo Ledge). There's a bathhouse and snack stand; for beach reads, Manchester by the Book is just a short walk away. *manchesterma.myrec.com*

Coolidge Reservation, MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA: The Coolidge family purchased this land in 1873 and put a grand "summer cottage" on a wide lawn overlooking the ocean. The house is long gone, but the lawn remains as one of the most beautiful picnic spots in New England. Walk up Bungalow Hill for even more expansive views. *thetrustees.org*

Hammond Castle Museum, GLOUCESTER: Modeled on medieval European architecture, this 1920s castle was built for inventor and art collector John Hays Hammond Jr., whose display of medieval and Renaissance artifacts inspired John D. Rockefeller Jr. to build the famed Cloisters in Upper Manhattan. *hammondcastle.org*

Cape Ann Museum, GLOUCESTER: Learn about the Cape's long maritime and artistic heritage at this museum, which holds the largest collection of Fitz Henry Lane's art (fans will enjoy

ROCKPORT HARBOR

FRANK, BEVERLY

RAYMOND FORBES LLC/STOCKSY (ROCKPORT); JESIKA THEOS (FRANK)

WOODMAN'S OF ESSEX

DIAMONDS & RUST, ESSEX

the neighborhood walking tour that traces his early life and inspirations). A new Edward Hopper summer exhibit is also worth a visit. *capeannmuseum.org*

Sushi Sang Lee, GLOUCESTER: Chef-owner Sang Hyun Lee's omakase dinners near the waterfront are intimate, multisensory delights, as Chef Lee walks guests through each course, presented on locally made pottery. This is sushi as an art and a craft. *sushisanglee.com*

Talise, GLOUCESTER: Perched over Lobster Cove in the village of Annisquam, Talise takes its cues from local produce and seafood. Chef-owner Joshua Smith's lobster tacos are made with artisan masa flour; sourdough is freshly baked. Seafood is king here, but there's also a phenomenal burger. Book early. *taliserestaurant.com*

Brothers Brew Coffee Shop, ROCKPORT: Homemade doughnuts; cinnamon rolls; a linguica, egg, and cheese breakfast sandwich on an English muffin ... these are the makings of a dream breakfast. *Facebook*

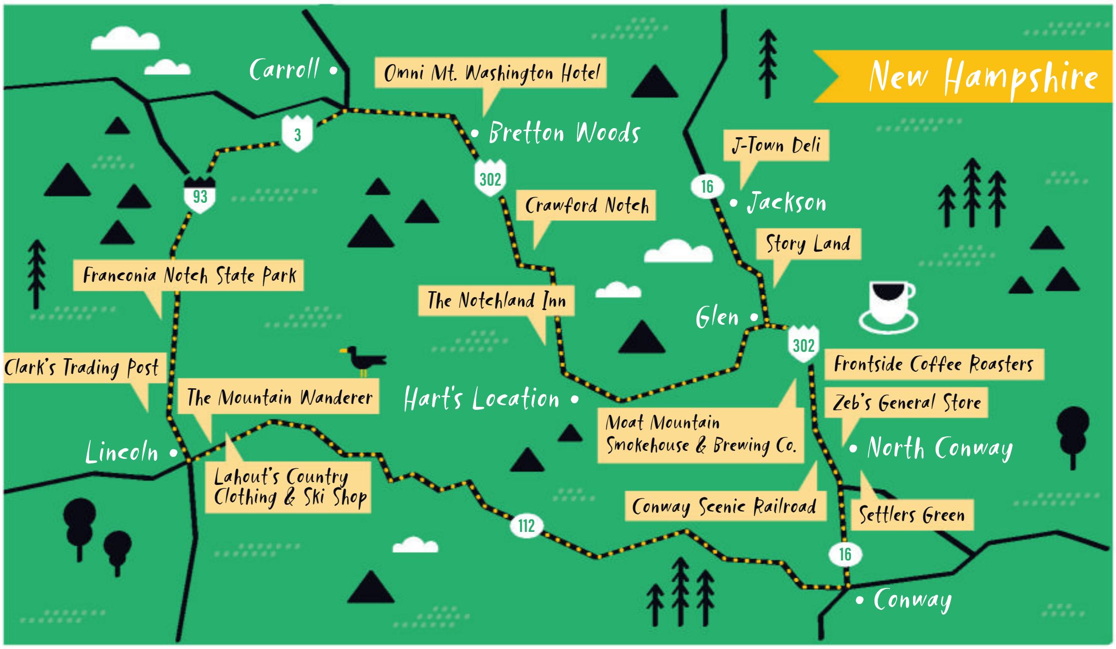
Diamonds & Rust, ESSEX: Allow plenty of time for browsing this highly curated collection of vintage and modern decor and clothing (we love the collection of indigo "chore coats"). Hours are generally Wednesday through Saturday, but call ahead to confirm. *diamondsandrustshop.com*

Woodman's of Essex, ESSEX: The original home of the fried clam is always worth a visit, thanks to the quality of the (always gluten-free) fried seafood, as well as the homemade chowder, which is not too thick, not too thin, and chock-full of clams. *woodmans.com*

HAMMOND CASTLE MUSEUM, GLOUCESTER

MOUNTAIN TIME

Soaking up the grandeur of the Whites, in and out of the car.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Frontside Coffee Roasters
Clark's Trading Post
The Mountain Wanderer
Hart's Location
Moat Mountain Smokehouse & Brewing Co.
Zeb's General Store
North Conway
Lincoln
Lahout's Country Clothing & Ski Shop
Conway Scenic Railroad
Settlers Green
112
16
Conway

In a region flush with photo shoot–worthy drives, the 100-mile loop that tracks Routes 302 and 112 through the western White Mountains rises above the rest. It is northern New Hampshire condensed into one single charm offensive: downtown North Conway, the Kancamagus Highway, and not one but two major notches. You go up. You go down. And you stop. Frequently.

Options for a starting point are as varied as the terrain, but you can't go wrong launching from the Omni Mount Washington Hotel, one of the last of the state's grand resorts, whose setting has drawn travelers since before the internal combustion engine. From here, briefly travel west on Routes 3 and 302 toward Interstate 93, a highway in name only: Its northern reaches blaze through some of the prettiest scenery in the Northeast, taking you past Cannon Mountain, Mount Lincoln, Echo Lake, and the Flume Gorge.

Take Exit 32 for the mountain town of Lincoln, which will tempt you to linger at shops such as Clark's Trading Post, Lahout's, and the Mountain Wanderer, a treasure trove of outdoor-adventure books and maps. But it will be hard to resist the call of the Kancamagus Highway, a 32-mile journey and a true New England celebrity road.

Located just east of the town center, the "Kanc" follows the Pemigewasset River and through the White Mountain National Forest. You navigate hairpin turns along its first 11 miles before reaching height of land and an expansive scenic outlook that takes in the Osceola Range, Mount Tremont, Sugar Hill, and the famed Pemigewasset Wilderness. The long descent leads to a second scenic turnoff with views that extend deep into Maine.

Soon you'll reach Route 16, which heads north to North Conway. Like the Kanc itself, North Conway is a tourist magnet, but if you can be patient and weather some vacation traffic, it's worth the time. On its outskirts are the outlets, but its center is home to small shops, cafés, and an expansive green that is prime real estate for picnicking or Frisbee throwing.

Farther north on 16 lies the mountain-rimmed resort town of Jackson, whose village caters to hikers, photographers, and lunchtime crowds in pursuit of the hefty homemade sandwiches served up at the J-Town Deli. Return south briefly on 16 to head west on Route 302. The road meanders past Attitash Mountain, whose ski terrain is reoriented to summertime recreation, before climbing again through Crawford Notch. Eventually the red roof of the Omni Mount Washington will come into focus—and if it's your home for the night, an even grander journey into the mountains can soon begin. —*Ian Aldrich*

COURTESY OF WOODMAN'S OF ESSEX (LOBSTER); COURTESY OF DIAMONDS & RUST (SHOP); FRANK C. GRACE (CASTLE)

ZEB'S GENERAL STORE, NORTH CONWAY

AVALANCHE FALLS, FLUME GORGE

STOPS ALONG THE WAY

Omni Mount Washington Hotel, BRETTON WOODS: Built on a palatial scale overlooking the Presidential Range, the resort's 903-foot-long wraparound veranda offers an unmatched perch for unwinding with drinks and gazing at mountain views. *omnihotels.com*

Franconia Notch State Park, FRANCONIA/ LINCOLN: Two superb lakes, the Flume Gorge, hiking trails, and even an aerial tramway all shine in this 6,692-acre natural showcase. *nhstateparks.org*

The Mountain Wanderer, LINCOLN: Count on the expertise of shop owner Steve Smith, the longtime editor of the Appalachian Mountain Club's *White Mountain Guide*, to direct you to some of the most under-the-radar hikes in the region. *mountainwanderer.com*

Lahout's Country Clothing & Ski Shop, LINCOLN: Herbert Lahout emigrated from Lebanon in 1898, opening his first dry-goods store 22 years later. He probably wouldn't recognize his early roots in this ski shop, which evolved to become America's oldest, serving Bode Miller and other local Olympians in the shadow of the White Mountains. *lahouts.com*

Clark's Trading Post, LINCOLN: The summer fun at Clark's includes Water Blaster Boats, the Old Man Climbing Tower, and five museums to explore. But the signature attraction is the dancing bear show, which has awed visitors since Clark's opened in 1928. *clarksbears.com*

Settlers Green, NORTH CONWAY: With 60-plus stores in tax-free New Hampshire in which to bargain-hunt, Settlers Green is a shopaholic's dream. It also has a handful of restaurants that offer fuel between retail hits. *settlersgreen.com*

Conway Scenic Railroad, NORTH CONWAY: This longtime attraction offers delightfully old-fashioned train rides. Two family-friendly "valley" routes head north to either Conway (11 miles) or Bartlett (21 miles), while the longer "notch" route heads to the mountains and Crawford Notch. *conwayscenic.com*

Zeb's General Store, NORTH CONWAY: A gift shop with a little bit of everything. Maneuver your way around antique fixtures, indulge at the candy counter, and browse a sprawling collection of New England–made specialty foods. *zebs.com*

Frontside Coffee Roasters, NORTH CONWAY: Look out at the Moat Mountains while munching on a bagel or breakfast sandwich and enjoying a fresh-brewed coffee or espresso made from house-roasted beans. *frontsidecoffee.com*

Moat Mountain Smokehouse & Brewing Co., NORTH CONWAY: Moat Mountain's beers can be found all over North Conway, but the Smokehouse is hands down the best spot for enjoying one with nachos, sandwiches, pizza, and burgers, as well as meat and seafood entrées. *moatmountain.com*

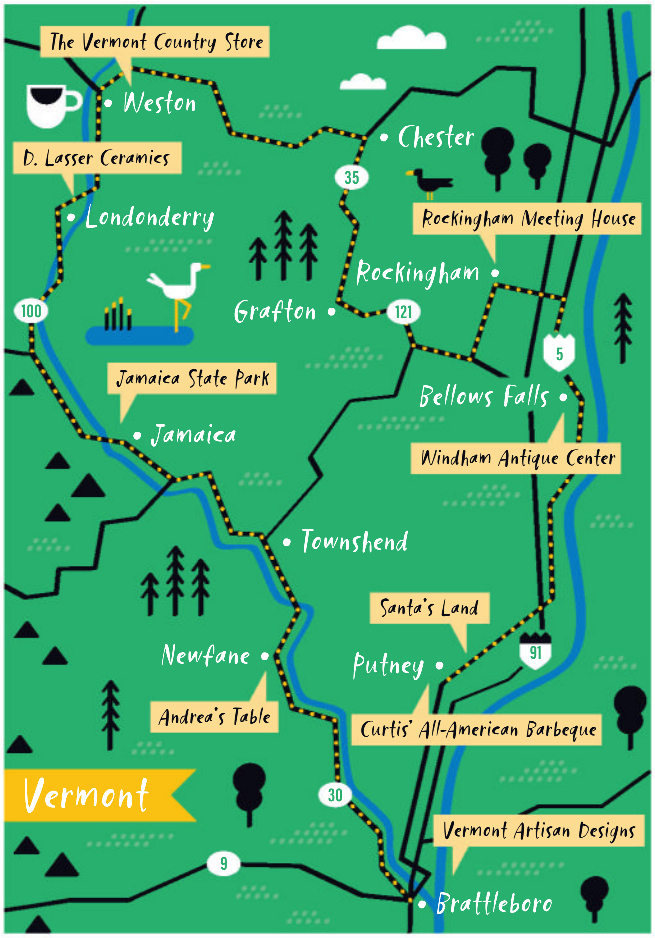
Story Land, GLEN: Against a beautiful White Mountains backdrop, Story Land aims its attractions and rides toward the under-12 set, making the storybook-themed park a favorite "staycation" destination for many New England families. *storylandnh.com*

J-Town Deli, JACKSON: This classic country store offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner, which can be eaten in the store or taken to go. Check out the variety of gifts, trinkets, and local souvenirs, too. *jtowndeli.com*

The Notchland Inn, HART'S LOCATION: The Notchland's comfy front parlor still bears the Arts and Crafts handprint of its designer, Gustav Stickley, aka the Ralph Lauren of the turn of the 20th century. New England craft beer, wine, or a favorite cocktail? Order up and sip away, as tunes from yesteryear play softly in the background. *notchland.com*

MARK FLEMING (ZEB'S); ALANA RANNEY (WATERFALL); FREDERICK BLOY (NOTCH)

FRANCONIA NOTCH


The Vermont Country Store
Weston
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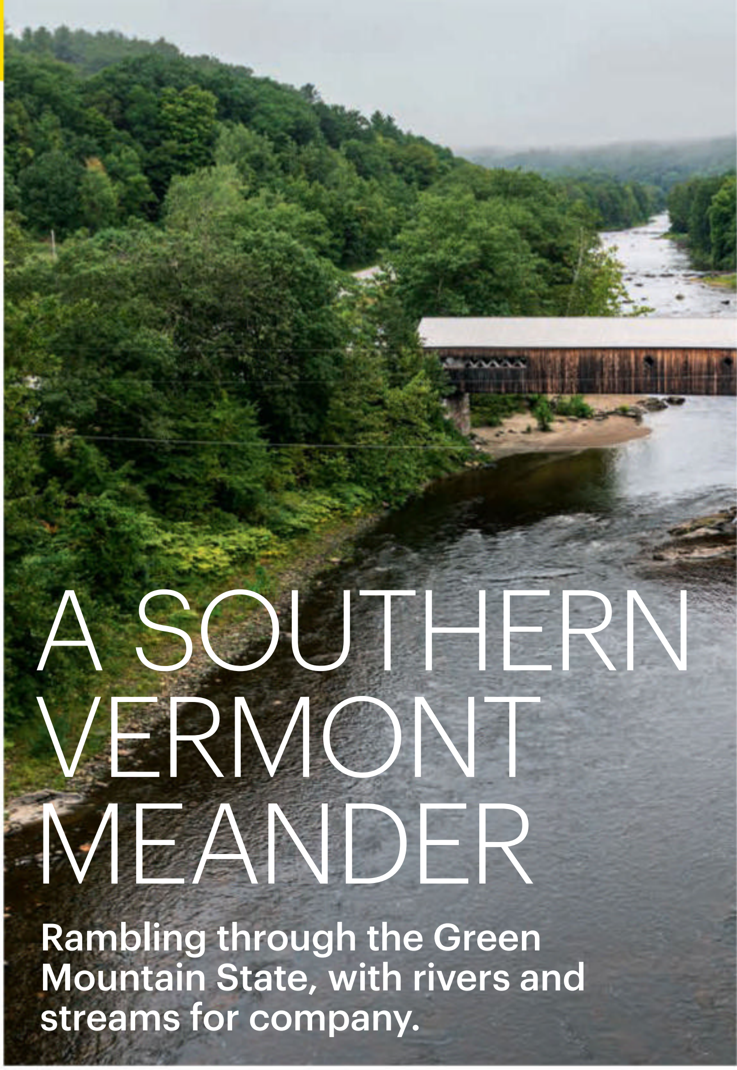


A SOUTHERN VERMONT MEANDER

Rambling through the Green Mountain State, with rivers and streams for company.

NEWFANE

Bustling with bookstores, ethnic restaurants, and galleries spotlighting the work of local artisans, the lively town of Brattleboro anchors this 100-mile loop that takes in some of southern Vermont's loveliest villages. It's a drive that begins with a vivid reminder of why Vermont roadways meander the way they do—it's because they follow rivers and streams, the way the state's earliest settlers did. Brattleboro lies on the Connecticut River, at the point where the West River meets that broad waterway, and Route 30 hugs the West for much of this drive.

Setting out from Brattleboro, the first village you'll encounter along the way is Newfane, the "shire town" (Vermonters' term for county seat) of Windham County since 1787. Anchored by a classic town green, it's a place that looks as if its clocks stopped before the Civil War. Townshend and Jamaica, tiny towns that give their names to nearby state parks, stand at the threshold of the vast Green Mountain National Forest. Just past Townshend, Route 30 joins Route 100, which splits away to rejoin the West River and cross it at South Londonderry. Ahead lies Weston, a hill town whose fame long surpassed its size because of two venerable institutions: the Weston

SCOTT COVERED BRIDGE, TOWNSHEND

TURN IT UP, BRATTLEBORO

Playhouse and the Vermont Country Store.

The route leaves the West River and Route 100 behind, taking Chester Mountain Road —with a fiddler's-elbow turn—into Chester, where Scottish masons long ago created a "stone village" that oddly stands apart in a state known for quarrying granite but where wood for building houses was always closer at hand. Chester has a village green, too, stretched into a narrow mall that accommodates inns and cafés.

Head south on Route 35 to Grafton, a town reclaimed from obscurity by a forward-thinking nonprofit and by one of Vermont's oldest artisan food traditions, cheesemaking. Next, wander down Route 121 along Saxtons River for the town named after it, and jog north to Rockingham for a look at Vermont's oldest unchanged buildings—and, perhaps, its most serenely beautiful.

South along Route 5 at Bellows Falls, Vermonters' penchant for revival and reuse comes across in an old railroad and canal town that's been stylishly snapped out of its doldrums—in this case, by the grit and imagination of local artists and entrepreneurs. And in Putney, a few miles south on the way back to Brattleboro, there's an outpost of one of the oldest entrepreneurs of all: Santa Claus. —*Bill Scheller*

OLIVER PARINI

STOPS ALONG THE WAY

Vermont Artisan Designs, BRATTLEBORO: Pottery, glass, fiber art, furniture, and galleries devoted entirely to fine art and photography make this a must-visit before you hit the road. *vtart.com*

Andrea's Table, NEWFANE: To the rear of the c. 1825 Windham County Courthouse is the elegant Four Columns Inn; its new restaurant, Andrea's Table, features a farm-to-table menu worth catching Wednesday through Saturday evenings. *fourcolumnsvt.com*

Jamaica State Park, JAMAICA: Tucked along a bend of the West River, this park offers trails to Ball Mountain Lake and Hamilton Falls, an impressive series of pools and cataracts. *vtstateparks.com*

D. Lasser Ceramics, LONDONDERRY: Spilling onto the lawn of Daniel Lasser's Route 100 studio and showroom are sculptures, tableware, and garden ceramics in a vividly expressive palette of colors and vocabulary of designs. *lasserceramics.com*

The Vermont Country Store, WESTON: In an homage to his grandfather's general store in northern Vermont, Vrest Orton put together a mail-order catalog of classic, durable items and opened a store in 1946 to go with it. The store still occupies its original premises in Weston, purveying hard-to-find old-time products, Vermont foods, and too much more to mention. *vermontcountrystore.com*

CHESTER: Inn Victoria and the Fullerton Inn are possible overnight choices, the first for its Victorian luxe and the second for feeling more like a small country hotel, which it's always been. Spending the night in Chester or not, it's pleasant to enjoy lunch on the Fullerton's veranda—or, if a picnic is more in order, to stock up on cheese and charcuterie at Bushel and a Peck, down the street. *meetchestervermont.com*

GRAFTON: During the 1960s, the Windham

DOWNTOWN CHESTER

Foundation remade this entire town into the apotheosis of a New England village. The centerpiece is the foundation-owned Grafton Inn, occupying a grand colonnaded structure that was built in 1801. Also under the foundation umbrella is the Grafton Village Cheese Company, a crafter of fine cheddar since 1892. *visitgraftonvt.com*

Rockingham Meeting House, **ROCKINGHAM:** In 1787 the townspeople of Rockingham erected a meeting house, and in all the years since, it's never been altered, inside or out. Open to visitors daily, it may be the most serene spot in Vermont. *rockinghamvt.org/historic-preservation-commission*

CURTIS' ALL-AMERICAN BARBECUE, PUTNEY

Windham Antique Center, **BELLOWS FALLS:** In the heart of Bellows Falls is this warren of rooms filled with vintage furniture, porcelain and silver tableware, heirloom jewelry, lamps, and restoration hardware—plus an unexpected sideline, a natural history collection that includes geodes bursting with color. *windhamantiquecenter vermont.com*

Curtis' All-American Barbecue, **PUTNEY:** Curtis Tuff was a local culinary legend for over 40 years; since his 2020 passing, his daughter Sarah has kept at the job of long, slow smoking and serving "till sold out." Pork ribs and pulled chicken are the mainstays here, with traditional sides like yams, collard greens, and corn muffins. *Facebook*

Santa's Land, **PUTNEY:** A roadside attraction since 1957, this is the place to meet Santa and his elves, ride a Christmas-themed train and carousel, play mini golf, and navigate a funhouse. Open weekends from late July through Christmas, it's not high-tech—just sweet old-fashioned fun. *santaslandusa.com*

OLIVER PARINI

BAY WATCH

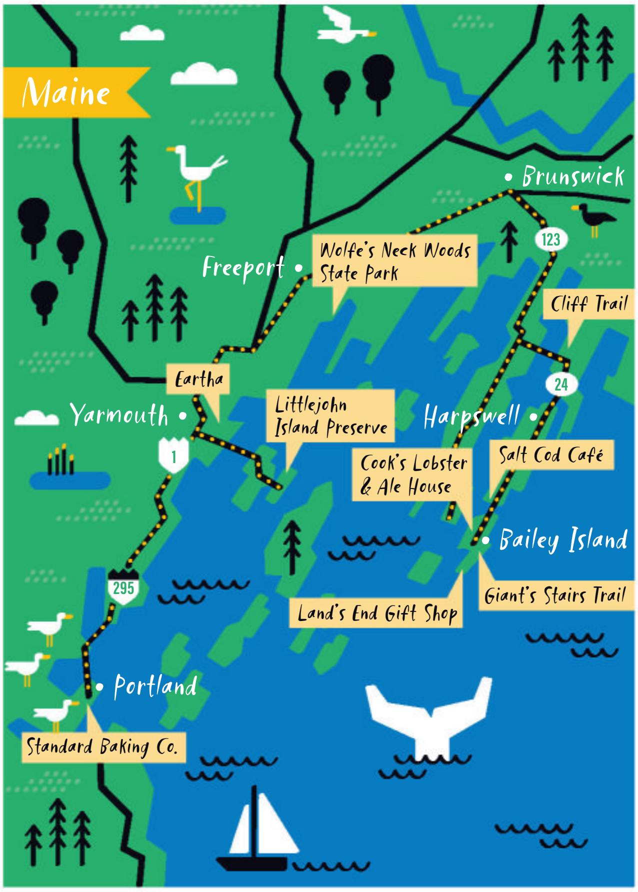
A scenic day trip from Portland, with Casco Bay along for the ride.

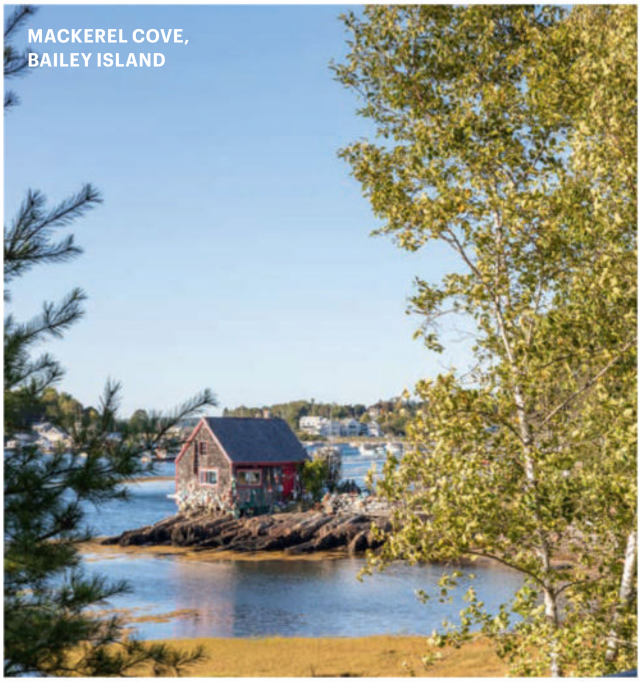
You wake up in Portland to the cries of seagulls and the sounds of fishing boats and ferries along the waterfront. But just a short drive away, there await quiet peninsula roads with island views, a cliffside panorama out of a Winslow Homer painting, and a college town you won't want to leave. Did I mention waterside lobster rolls and one of the most scenic souvenir shops anywhere? It's a drive to remember—just trust your GPS to get you to all the stops you want to make.

Start early to get in line for croissants at Standard Baking Co. on Portland's waterfront. Then head northeast on Commercial Street, turn left onto Franklin Street, and—except for a brief stretch on I-295—you will spend the rest of the day driving country roads, windows down, breathing in the sea.

After about a dozen miles, pull in at 2 DeLorme Drive, the site of GPS tech giant Garmin and home of Eartha, the world's largest rotating globe. The lobby is open to visitors, and you will be transfixed by seeing our planet looming in the three-story glass atrium, as if you are a tiny satellite passing by below.

Just north, turn onto Main Street in Freeport, where L.L. Bean's sprawling campus and dozens of national outlets and local stores make it feel like an outdoor shopping potpourri. You will likely put a bag or two in the car. But less than five miles distant, Casco Bay beckons: Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park is a gem with five miles of walking paths by the water, and ospreys and herons likely to be soaring overhead.





MACKEREL COVE, BAILEY ISLAND

JUSTIN SMULSKI

Another 10 miles brings you to Brunswick, home to Bowdoin College's museums, beautiful campus, and a main street filled with shops, restaurants featuring cuisine from around the world, and a showstopper of a mural. You will be tempted to linger here, and the summer daylight is long, so do. But just ahead lies the Harpswell Peninsula, where villages and islands compose the town of Harpswell, giving it the longest coastline of any community in Maine.

From Brunswick, follow Route 1 for just a few moments, then turn onto Route 123 south to begin exploring this inviting peninsula. Routes 123 and 24 extend southward like tentacles, with Mountain Road connecting the two; water sparkles on both sides. Go slow. Cross scenic bridges, visit island villages, stroll trails that bring you to overlooks where Maine's rocky coast is the star. One of the state's most famous seafood restaurants, Cook's Lobster & Ale House, is here on Bailey Island, with a jaw-dropper of a view. Explore the peninsula, and if lucky you will find yourself back at Eartha at dark, where it is lit like a moon, rotating ever so slowly, while Portland waits just down the road. —*Mel Allen*

STOPS ALONG THE WAY

Standard Baking Co., PORTLAND: In a city famous for culinary delights, this Old Port bakery in a vintage brick warehouse may be its most beloved. Simply one of the best in the country. *standardbakingco.com*

Eartha, YARMOUTH: This 41-foot-diameter rotating globe was built as a signature attraction for DeLorme Maps, and when Garmin acquired the company it kept the lobby open and Eartha on its never-ending path. *2 DeLorme Dr.; lobby open 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. weekdays*

FREEPORT: This pretty town turned shopping nirvana has more than its fair share of don't-miss stops. Love craft beer? Maine Beer Company is one of the state's best breweries, and yes, there's a tasting room. Got a sweet tooth? Year after year, Wilbur's of Maine Chocolates wins accolades for best in the state. And did we mention a certain Maine company built on a hunting boot? *visitfreeport.com*

Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, FREEPORT: Five miles of walking trails, including a wheelchair-accessible path, take you into a world of forest and marsh and sea, with island views and even famous paintings of seascapes posted along the way. *maine.gov/wolfesneckwoods*

BRUNSWICK: The tree-lined Bowdoin College campus inspired Hawthorne and Longfellow—and will no doubt inspire you, too. Its art museum holds more than 14,000 works, and its Peary-Macmillan Arctic Museum is an unexpected visit to another world. At 11 Pleasant St., just off Maine Street, don't miss the Dance of Two Cultures mural, which grew out of a cultural exchange between Brunswick and Trinidad, Cuba. It is both a work of art and a testament to the merging of diverse cultures. *brunswickdowntown.org*

OLD PORT, PORTLAND

SALT COD CAFÉ, ORR'S ISLAND

Cliff Trail, HARPSWELL: Behind the Harpswell town office on Mountain Road is a dog-friendly walking path along a tidal creek that takes you into a "fairy house" building zone, where all ages have constructed fanciful dwellings from twigs and bark. A more rugged cliff trail leads to spectacular views over Long Reach. *hhltmaine.org*

Salt Cod Café, ORR'S ISLAND: Since 1845, people have stocked up on food and local goods at this site overlooking Harpswell Sound. The great-great-granddaughter of the original store owner will make you a lobster roll to eat beside the sea. *saltcodcafe.com*

Cook's Lobster & Ale House, BAILEY ISLAND: One of the most famous seafood landmarks in Maine, whose picture windows offer a one-of-a-kind view out to the famous Cribstone Bridge. *cookslobster.com*

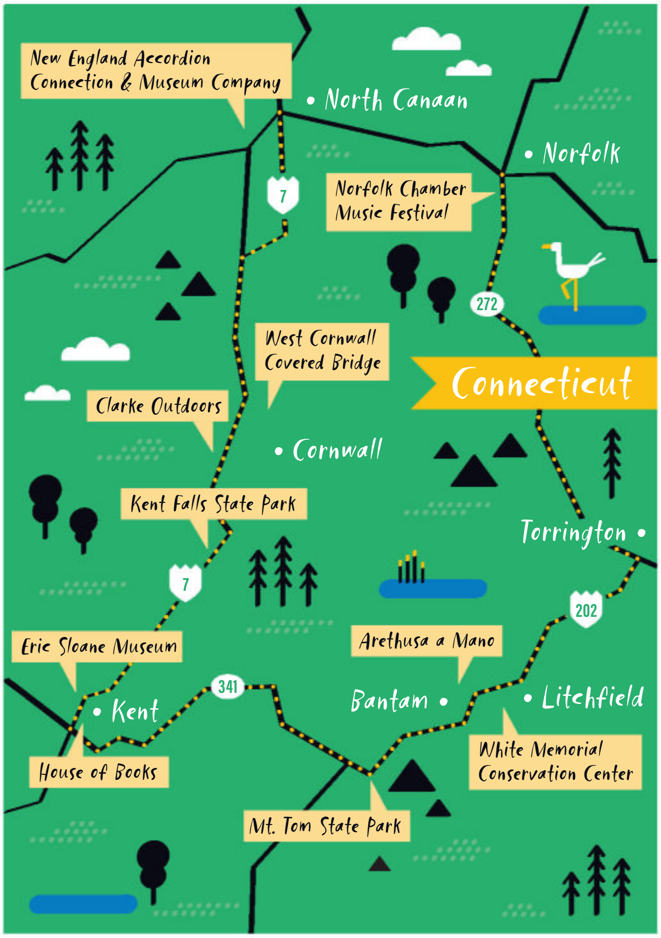
Giant's Stairs Trail, HARPSWELL: Discover one of the most memorable vistas of Casco Bay from this loop path, which takes you past rock formations sculpted by 500 million years of pounding surf. *hhltmaine.org*

Land's End Gift Shop, BAILEY ISLAND: Route 24 ends here, with boulders to sit on while you watch seals. Family-owned since 1959, this shop is a tourist trap worth falling into. *Facebook*

Littlejohn Island Preserve, YARMOUTH: The definition of "hidden gem," this 23-acre property offers a 1.3-mile loop trail with views of islands shining in the near distance. Parking spots are few, but the short drive from Yarmouth to Cousins Island and then the causeway to Littlejohn is worth it by itself. *rrct.org*

JUSTIN SMULSKI

WOLFE'S NECK WOODS
STATE PARK, FREEPORT


New England Accordion Connection & Museum Company
North Canaan
Norfolk
7
Norfolk Chamber Music Festival
272
West Cornwall Covered Bridge
Connecticut
Clarke Outdoors
Cornwall
Kent Falls State Park
Torrington
7
202
Eric Sloane Museum
Arethusa a Mano
341
Kent
Bantam
Litchfield
House of Books
White Memorial Conservation Center
Mt. Tom State Park

HEAD FOR THE HILLS

Rural beauty meets classic small towns in northwest Connecticut.

A drive through Connecticut's Litchfield Hills takes you from one picturesque town to another on roads that wrap around hills, trace river valleys, and slice through woodlands. You will see shimmering waters, expansive views, tidy village centers, and green hillsides. As with any trip, there are side roads to explore, making this a jaunt that can often be repeated without becoming repetitious.

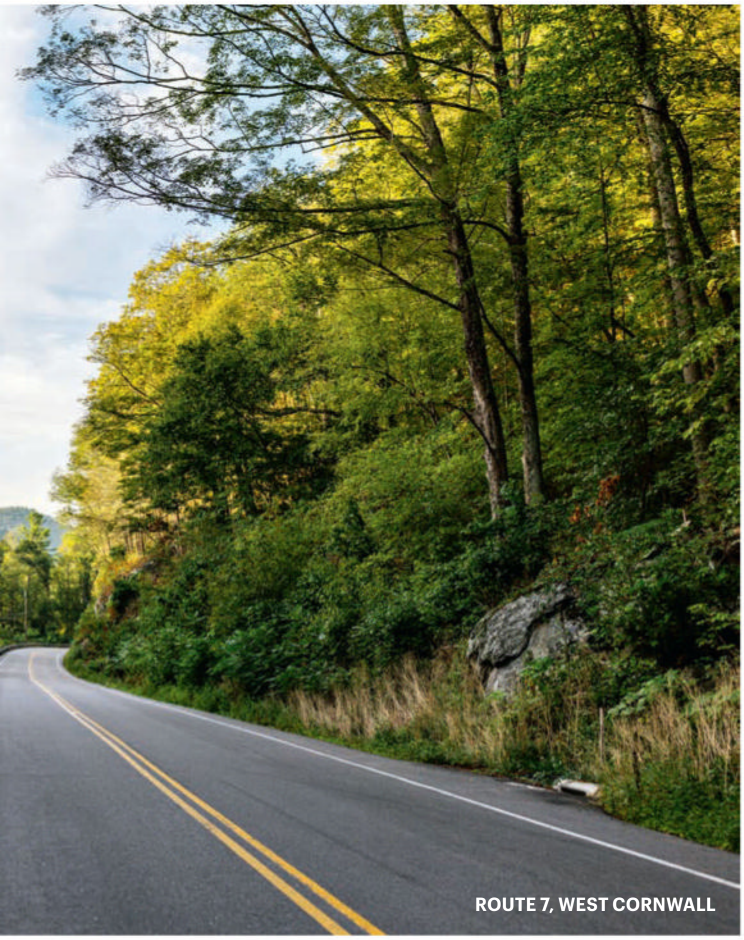
Start on Route 7 just south of the Massachusetts border, in New Canaan. Right off the bat, there's something worth stopping for: the New England Accordion Connection & Museum Company, a one-of-a-kind attraction situated within the painstakingly restored Victorian-era Canaan Union Station.

Head south of town on Route 7, which eventually begins running along the Housatonic River and through a state forest that skirts the border of Sharon (where the Sharon Audubon Center is a worthy diversion) and Cornwall, billed as "the greenest town in Connecticut." If you see an opportunity to outflank the fly fishermen and score a parking space in one of the roadside jug handles, seize it. Photo opportunities abound here, but space to pull over and admire them does not. Either way, don't miss the pinnacle of all photo ops, the c. 1864 West Cornwall Covered Bridge.

Plan to linger for a while in Kent, home to Kent Falls State Park, the Kent Collection Inns, and, for indie bookstore lovers, the House of Books; covered-bridge aficionados may opt for a side excursion to nearby Bull's Bridge. From Kent, you'll leave Route 7 and head east on 341, toward Warren and beautiful Lake Waramaug, eventually connecting with Route 202 near Washington, the town that inspired the TV show *Gilmore Girls*.

Sitting right off 202, Mount Tom State Park presents an opportunity to stretch your legs, and a moderately challenging climb pays off with an extraordinary 360-degree view from the 34-foot stone tower at the summit. On the road east to Litchfield, a trio of Arethusa Farm eateries in Bantam create a tourist trap you will be happy to be ensnared in.

Litchfield's Village Green serves up a bevy of restaurants and boutique shops to explore before you continue on 202 into the (relatively) big city of Torrington, where you'll look for Route 272 north. That will carry you up to Norfolk, home of the Yale Summer School of Music, and beyond that the return to Canaan, where you'll already be planning your next go-round. —*Joe Bills*



ROUTE 7, WEST CORNWALL

Arethusa Farm
STUMPTOWN
COLD BREW COFFEE

ARETHUSA A MANO, BANTAM

STOPS ALONG THE WAY

New England Accordion Connection & Museum Company, NORTH CANAAN: More than 500 accordions, each with a story, line the walls in a restored train station that is also home to the Connecticut Railroad Historical Association and Great Falls Brewing Company. *newenglandaccordionconnectionandmuseumcompany.com*

Music Mountain, FALLS VILLAGE: Located on 120 acres and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Music Mountain has been presenting concerts that span classical to jazz in Gordon Hall since 1930. The 2023 season opens June 4. *musicmountain.org*

Clarke Outdoors, CORNWALL: If you prefer getting out on the water to admiring it from the riverbank, you can find kayak rentals here, as well as guided tours and drop-off services. *clarkeoutdoors.com*

RSVP French Kitchen, WEST CORNWALL: Make sure you've obtained reservations well in advance to land one of the 20 seats at this acclaimed French eatery. The five-course prix fixe dinner is magnifique. *Instagram*

Eric Sloane Museum, KENT: Celebrate the world of author Eric Sloane through his paintings, books, illustrations, and antique hand tool collection. The museum grounds feature riverside walking trails, as well as the stone ruins of the Kent Iron Furnace. *ericsloane.com*

House of Books, KENT: There is absolutely no wasted space at this expertly curated little bookshop. Where else might you find a little book-length essay on the history of socks? *houseofbooksct.com*

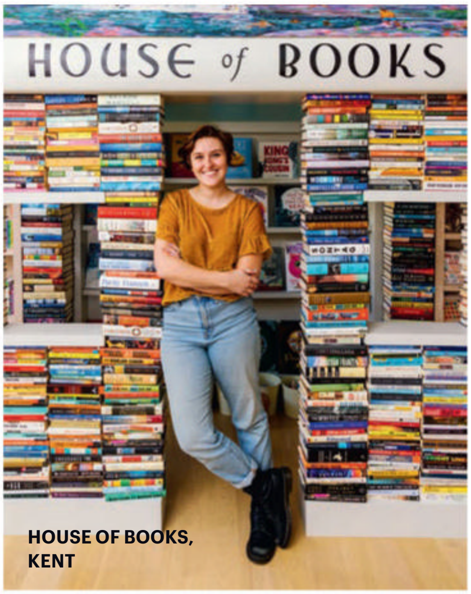
Mount Tom State Park, LITCHFIELD: This 231-acre outdoor playground offers one-stop recreation at its finest: Work up a sweat climbing to the peak, then hit the beach for a quick lake dip to cool off. *portal.ct.gov/DEEP*

FREE WiFi
CORNWALL HOLLOW FARM
FARM STAND
OPEN
HONEY
CORN
TOMATOES
EGGS
SQUASH
PEPPERS
MAPLE SYRUP
FLOWERS
HERBS
JAMS & MORE

CORNWALL HOLLOW FARM, CORNWALL

LINDA CAMPOS

HOUSATONIC RIVER, WEST CORNWALL



HOUSE OF BOOKS, KENT

DOWNTOWN LITCHFIELD

Arethusa a Mano, BANTAM: This bakery-café is among three worthy Arethusa offerings here, along with the restaurant Arethusa al Tavolo and the scoop shop Arethusa Farm Dairy. *arethusafarm.com*

Winvian Farm, MORRIS: Just a few miles south of Litchfield lies this 113-acre luxury hotel comprising the 1775 Seth Bird house, 18 themed cottages (including a treehouse and a beaver lodge), a AAA Five Diamond restaurant, and a spa. *winvian.com*

White Memorial Conservation Center, LITCHFIELD: Surrounded by a 4,000-acre wildlife sanctuary and more than 35 miles of walking trails, this museum and education center offers a deep dive into the region's natural history. *whitememorialcc.org*

Haystack Mountain State Park, NORFOLK: The views of Norfolk and Canaan from the 1929 observation tower atop this 1,716-foot peak make the hike worthwhile (though you can opt to take the auto road halfway up). *portal.ct.gov/DEEP*

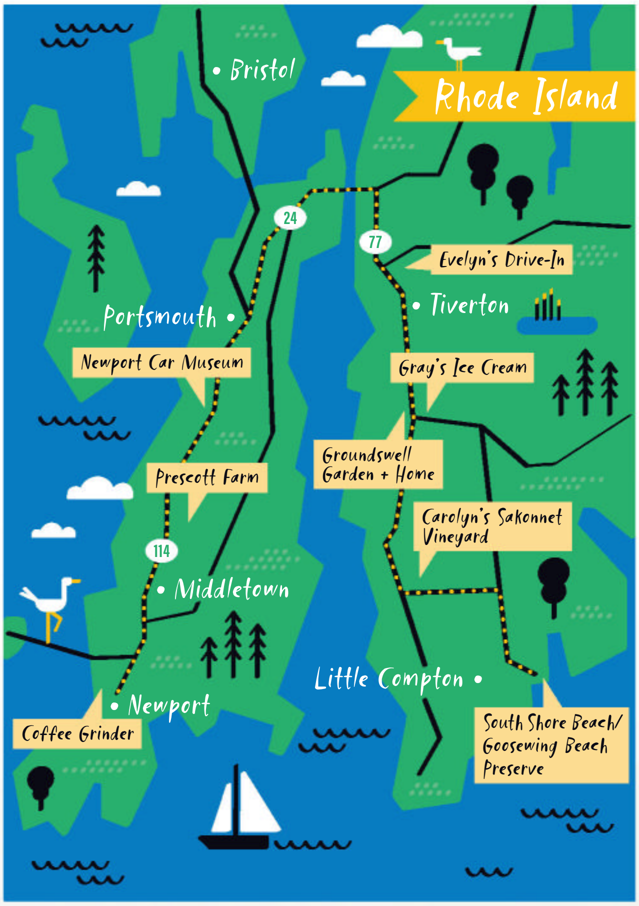
Infinity Music Hall, NORFOLK: Built in 1883 as a combination opera house, barbershop, and saloon, this 300-seat village landmark still features its original wooden stage, and the on-site GoodWorks Smokehouse takes the dinner-and-a-show concept to glorious new levels. *infinityhall.com*

Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, NORFOLK: One of the country's oldest summer music festivals, NCMF brings together emerging musicians and experienced pros, with memorable results. *music.yale.edu/norfolk*

LINDA CAMPOS (BOOKSTORE, RIVER, LITCHFIELD); MAAIKE BERNSTROM (SUNFLOWERS)

FARM COAST REVERIE

Exploring a Rhode Island gem in Newport's shadow.


Bristol
Rhode Island
24
77
Evelyn's Drive-In
Tiverton
Portsmouth
Newport Car Museum
Gray's Ice Cream
Groundswell Garden + Home
Prescott Farm
Carolyn's Sakonnet Vineyard
114
Middletown
Little Compton
Newport
Coffee Grinder
South Shore Beach/ Goosewing Beach Preserve

With its dreamy combination of rolling fields and salty air, the Rhode Island Farm Coast is the perfect place to explore in summer. Starting in Newport and ending in Little Compton, this 28-mile jaunt is a welcome reminder of how special it is when the fruits of land and sea converge.

You'll start from Newport, but if early caffeine is required, fuel up at Coffee Grinder, a beloved downtown spot for java and pastries. Then head north on Route 138 to Route 114 in Middletown, where Prescott Farm pays tribute to the region's agricultural past. Stroll the gardens and admire the historic architecture, but mostly gaze up at the delightful 1812 Robert Sherman Windmill.

If you find "rides" as interesting as routes, a few minutes north is the Newport Car Museum in Portsmouth, home to nearly 100 autos in colorful galleries such as "American Muscle" and "Fin Cars." After taking a little spin through history, follow Route 24 across the Sakonnet River Bridge, then take Route 77 into Tiverton. If you got a later start, it might be time for lunch, so pull over when you get to seafood favorite Evelyn's Drive-In. Order the combo (four fluffy clam cakes and a bowl of clear-broth clam chowder), then grab an open picnic table and enjoy a classic Rhode Island pairing.

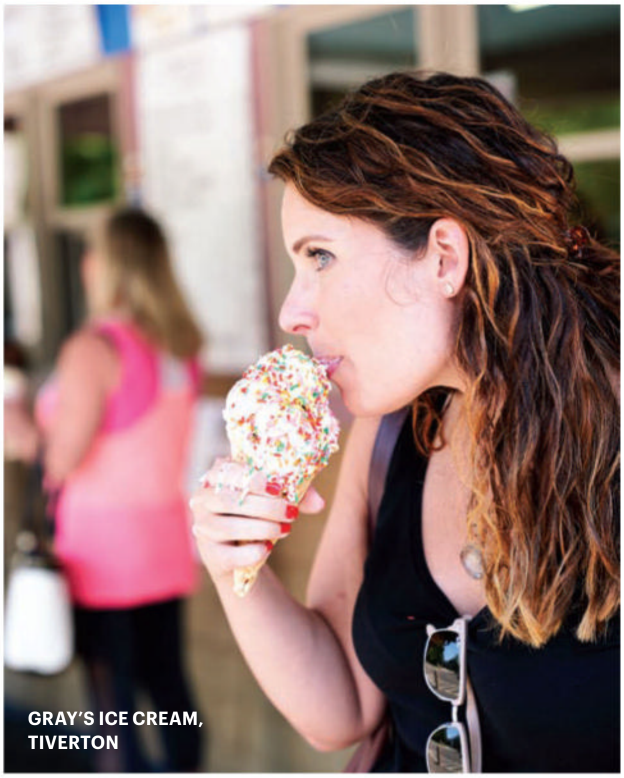
Continuing south, you'll arrive at the Tiverton Four Corners Historic District, a stroll-worthy cluster of 18th- and 19th-century buildings housing more than two dozen shops, studios, and eateries. Browse for new indoor and outdoor treasures at Groundswell Garden + Home (they also operate the Parisian-inspired bakery-café on the opposite corner), or hunt for one-of-a-kind finds at Peter's Attic or Carmen & Ginger Vintage Goods. Just make sure to end your visit at Gray's Ice Cream, celebrating its centennial this year.

Leaving Tiverton, travel south to Little Compton, birthplace of the Rhode Island Red, a breed of chicken so popular it briefly led to Little Compton's status as the "poultry capital of the world." It's also where you'll find Carolyn's Sakonnet Vineyard, where 30 of its 150 beautiful acres are cultivated

SUNFLOWERS IN LITTLE COMPTON

for wine production. Stop to sample a flight in the tasting room, or settle in at a table on the lawn for al fresco sipping.

Dipping your toes in the ocean is the obvious way to end the day. Fifteen minutes of back roads brings you to Little Compton's South Shore Beach, and if the initial stretch of sand doesn't satisfy, a short trip across a shallow stream leads to the Goosewing Beach Preserve. Here, under the protection of the Nature Conservancy, nesting local birds thrive—and sparse crowds mean you can always find the perfect quiet spot to soak up the last golden rays of an ideal Farm Coast day. —*Aimee Tucker*


GRAY'S ICE CREAM, TIVERTON

STOPS ALONG THE WAY

Coffee Grinder, NEWPORT: Housed in the historic downtown Perry Mill, Coffee Grinder's small-batch-roasted beans, authentic Italian espresso, and fresh-made pastries are a great way to start any day. *coffeegrindernewport.com*

Prescott Farm, MIDDLETOWN: Stretch your legs at this 40-acre tribute to Aquidneck Island's rural past, operated by the Newport Restoration Foundation. The kitchen and herb gardens are lovely, but it's the 1812 smock-style, four-vaned windmill that steals the show. *newportrestoration.org*

Newport Car Museum, PORTSMOUTH: Opened in 2017 and filled with automotive wonders going back to the 1950s, the Newport Car Museum is a colorful celebration of style and speed. *newportcarmuseum.org*

Evelyn's Drive-In, TIVERTON: Overlooking Nanaquaket Pond, Evelyn's has been satisfying seafood cravings since 1969. Don't skip an order of clam cakes and Rhode Island's signature clear-broth clam chowder. *evelynsdrivein.com*

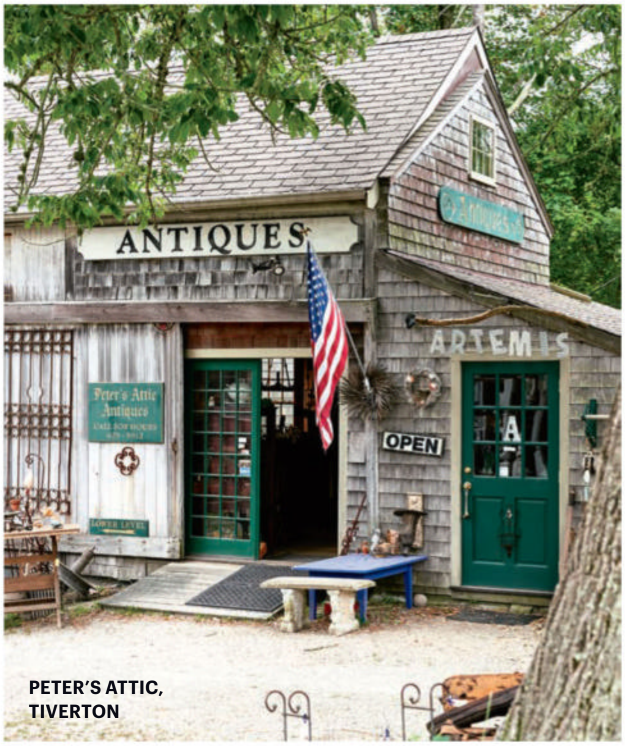
Groundswell Garden + Home, TIVERTON: The rooms in this former 18th-century home overflow with a dizzying array of curated wares, from pottery, soaps, and kitchen linens to terrariums and birdhouses. *groundswellcafegarden.com*

Gray's Ice Cream, TIVERTON: Choose from homemade ice cream in more than 30 flavors at this venerable scoop shop. For the local experience, order a coffee ice cream cone or "cabinet," Rhode Island–speak for frappe (which is New England–speak for milkshake). *graysicecream.com*

Carolyn's Sakonnet Vineyard, LITTLE COMPTON: The many delicious white, red, rosé, and dessert wines that are produced at New England's oldest vineyard go perfectly with basking in the warm summer sun. Hours are limited (noon–4 p.m. Friday through Monday), so plan accordingly. *sakonnetwine.com*

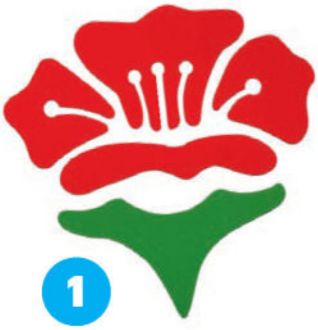
South Shore Beach, LITTLE COMPTON: This popular public beach boasts ample parking, sandy shores for sunbathing, and surfer-friendly waves. *littlecomptonri.org*

Goosewing Beach Preserve, LITTLE COMPTON: Part of the Nature Conservancy, this pristine 75-acre preserve is accessible only by foot through South Shore Beach, but it's worth the extra effort. Stay on marked trails to protect the fragile nesting spots of local piping plovers and least terns. *nature.org*



PETER'S ATTIC, TIVERTON

MARK FLEMING



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Bumper Crop

The stories behind 10 iconic stickers that you're bound to spy on a New England road trip. **By Courtney Hollands**

MASSACHUSETTS

1. Since its debut in the early '90s, the sticker for Nantucket sandwich spot **Something Natural**—a single flower that comes in a rainbow of colors—has become the ultimate New England "if you know, you know." And it was once a ticket for free bread, too: Years ago, when owner Matt Fee drove his children around the region for club soccer tournaments, he would leave a fresh-baked Portuguese loaf on the windshield of any car that was sporting the cheery symbol (much to his tween daughter's chagrin).

2. Featuring a block print of the historic Montague Bookmill by Northampton artist Betsy Frederick, this sticker endures because it's funny, said current owner Susan Shilliday. The irreverent slogan—**"Books you don't need in a place you can't find"**—dates to the store's founding era, the late 1980s, and evolved "out of the lunacy of the whole enterprise, of putting a bookstore in the middle of nowhere," she said. "In an era of hype, people like the self-deprecation."

NEW HAMPSHIRE

3. The earliest iterations of the now-ubiquitous **Mount Washington Auto Road** sticker were four feet long, fashioned from cardboard, and fastened to bumpers with wire in the late 1930s—when driving up the narrow summit road was truly a feat. By the 1960s, those had given way to standard vinyl stickers, and today every motorist who heads up the 6,288-foot peak gets one of the retro mementos for free. "It's a huge brand," said Howie Wemyss, the road's retired general manager. "I don't think I've ever been on vacation anywhere in the United States and not seen at least one."

4. To help prevent deadly moose-car collisions, the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department in the late 1980s borrowed a public safety campaign from Alaska, changing the tagline from "Give Moose a Brake" to the more urgent **"Brake for Moose: It Could Save Your Life."** The yellow stickers came out in 1991, not only cementing the hulking herbivore's celebrity status in the Granite State but also giving drivers a way to "express that they care about natural resources," said the department's Moose Project leader and wildlife biologist, Henry Jones.

MAINE

5. When someone at a 2009 beer festival bought the bright orange **"BeerME"** shirt that Chris Avantaggio had designed right off his friend's back, the creative director knew he was on to something. Soon he introduced stickers and spin-offs, all including the outline of and abbreviation for the Pine Tree State: "SkiME," "FishME," and more. "The collection encompasses everything we love about the state and the fun things to do here," Avantaggio said. The original sticker celebrating Maine's craft breweries remains a best seller; however, he recently released a "WineME" glass for oenophiles, too.

RHODE ISLAND

6. Because Narragansett Beer's popular decal simply exclaims **"Hi Neighbor!"**, there are unsuspecting people "who pick up our stickers thinking it's like a 'Life Is Good' sticker, not even affiliated with a beer company," said president and CEO Mark Hellendrung, who estimates that the brewery has ordered 600,000 of them in the past five years alone. "It's pretty funny." Of course, New Englanders of a certain age know that the phrase comes from the slogan made famous in the 1950s by Red Sox announcer Curt Gowdy: "Hi neighbor, have a 'Gansett."

VERMONT

7. In the almost four decades since marketing pro Gerald Muro came up with the award-winning **"Ski It If You Can"** campaign as an ode to Mad River Glen's challenging terrain, the cult status of the red-and-white bumper sticker has, ahem, snowballed. It's been spotted on the canopy of a U.S. Air Force F-16, among penguins in Antarctica, and even in space (thanks to astronaut and longtime Mad River Glen co-op shareholder Cady Coleman).

8. Kale was still just a salad bar garnish in 2000 when T-shirt artist Bo Muller-Moore traced his pointer finger with a Sharpie to create the original **"Eat More Kale"** stencil, first printing it on wildly popular tees and then on the green circles that grace bumpers from Brattleboro to Burlington and beyond. Although proud of his brassica-boosting legacy, Muller-Moore admitted he was somewhat late to the kale party: "I had to develop my taste for it over time, or I would have been quite the hypocrite."

CONNECTICUT

9. Almost too clever for an NHL logo, the design that Connecticut-based artist Peter Good dreamed up for the **Hartford Whalers** in 1979 depicts a green "W," a curvaceous whale's tale, and an "H" in the negative space between. It spoke to fans then—and still resonates with fans today, who continue to rock the beloved sticker even after the franchise moved to North Carolina in 1997 and became the Carolina Hurricanes. It's no surprise then, that the Hurricanes' official NHL shop sells throwback Whalers gear.

NEW ENGLAND

10. Thanks to the high-contrast **"Ski the East"** stickers slapped on their cargo boxes and helmets, New England skiers can easily identify—and commiserate with—other regional loyalists. That (hard)pack mentality is exactly why the circa-2005 decal has caught on, said Geoff McDonald, cofounder of the Vermont-based Ski the East gear company. "It represents what the whole East Coast is about: the rain, the pain, and the heartache, but also the occasional glorious day," he said. "The 'Ski the East' community is all about accepting your fate—and reveling in it."

LARS KLOVE (STICKERS); ZOOM-ZOOM/ISTOCK (BACKGROUND)

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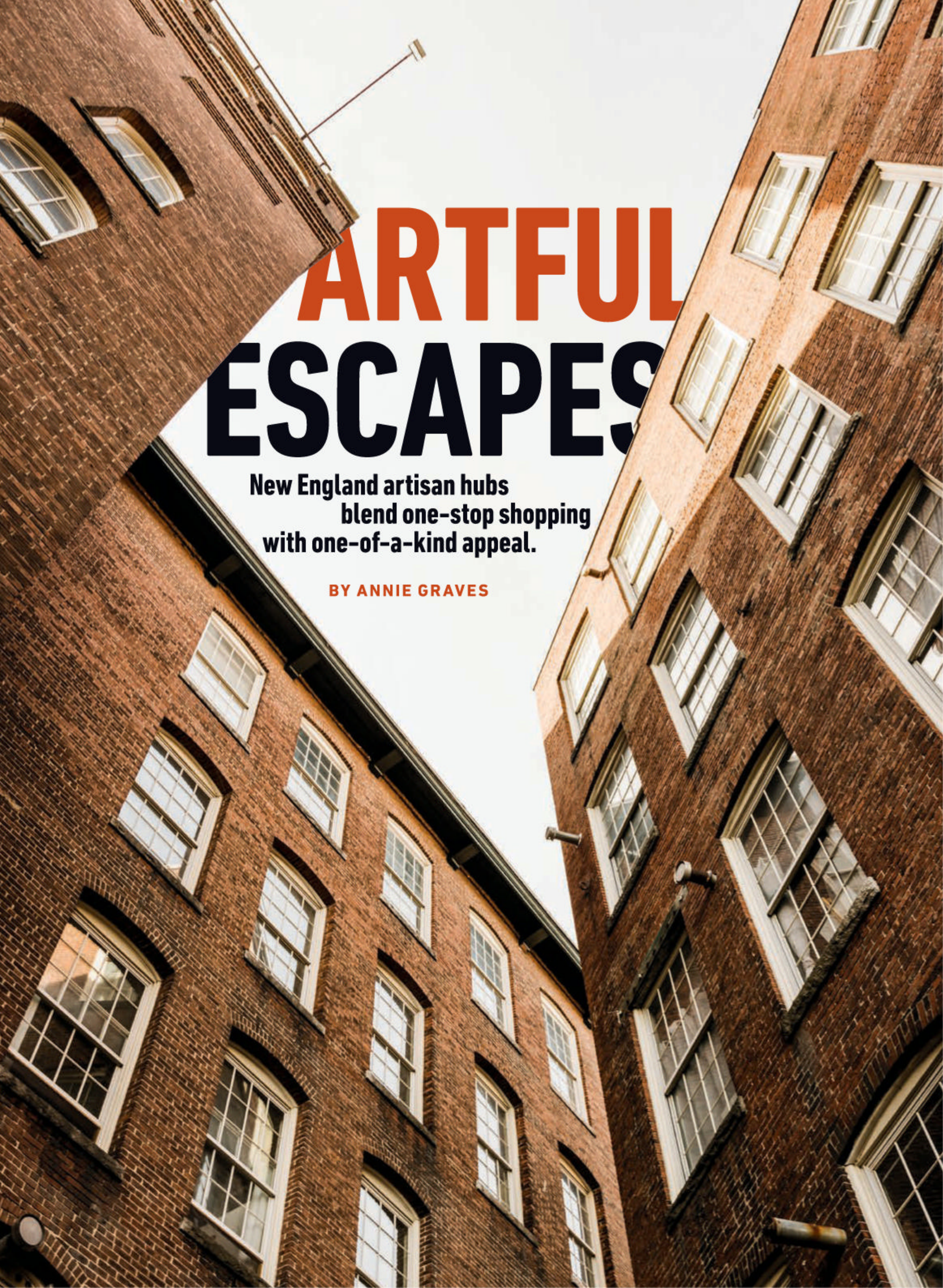

ARTFUL ESCAPES

New England artisan hubs blend one-stop shopping with one-of-a-kind appeal.

BY ANNIE GRAVES

The Western Avenue Studios complex in Lowell, Massachusetts, (OPPOSITE) hums with the creativity of its 350-plus tenants, who include Kate Cutlip of Tiny Arms Ceramics (THIS PAGE) and her husband, Jon Santos, who runs Tiny Arms Coffee Roasters.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL PIAZZA AND TRISTAN SPINSKI

n no special order, and without provocation, I find myself dreaming of tiny enameled earrings shaped like barnacles, blown-glass eggs with a dash of Jackson Pollock, and a tidy stack of laundry stain sticks.

Such is the diversity that springs forth, like creative bedlam itself, when you gather the work of multiple artists and craftspeople into one place—whether shops or galleries, fairs or festivals. From woodcarvers to potters; painters to lithographers; weavers to well-you-get-it, no medium goes unturned. Inspiration is everywhere, and it's a veritable cornucopia of talents: audacious, satisfying, and unpredictable.

Coincidentally, it is a shopper's paradise.

Sometimes the venues can be as ingenious as the treasures they contain. Like The Good Supply, a tucked-away gem on Maine's Pemaquid Peninsula. Owner-curator Catherine McLetchie assembles the art and craft of 100 mostly Maine makers, her community of creatives, and shares them with such infectious enthusiasm you might be inspired to consider relocating to Maine, possibly to join in.

At the other end of the artisanal-shopping spectrum is its urban counterpart: Western Avenue Studios, a former textile mill in Lowell, Massachusetts. The enormous space is home to 250 artist studios with another 50 live-work spaces that open their doors to the public during monthly Open Studio events. With a coffee bar, brewery, gallery, and food trucks, it's like an art carnival packed into an industrial space.

Let's duck inside for a closer look.

WESTERN AVENUE STUDIOS

Lowell, Massachusetts

Surely this is what the creative brain looks like, spread over 265,000 square feet.

It's practically impossible to visualize this amount of space until you see it: a mountain of brick, a massive sign proclaiming *Western Avenue Studios*, in an industrial neighborhood in the city of Lowell. Unfolding alongside the Pawtucket Canal (a watery antique completed in 1796), this five-building complex could fill four football fields. It could also win an award for most creative repurposing of a former textile mill.

More than 350 artists work or live here, in affordable spaces. It's an incubator where painting, pottery, jewelry, glasswork, clothing, wood, mixed-media, you-name-it, flow out of studios and into the halls. Even the Tiny Arms café infuses art into its small, tasty menu and cheery pottery, with tables and chairs on full view beyond loading-dock doors, raised up on this steamy summer day.

At least once a month, the Western Avenue studio doors are flung open, and the public gets to explore five floors of creative work, visiting makers in their studios, shopping an extraordinary array of crafts. Wander at will or take one of eight self-guided tours. Duck into the Landing Dock Gallery, filled with juried items. When you're ready for a pick-me-up, there's Navigation Brewing Company, or assorted food trucks, like the Plantiful Food Trailer, with a veggie sushi bowl and homemade lemon-lavender seltzer to stoke you up.

Impossible to predict what you'll encounter....

"Would you like to buy a bookmark?"

I've just climbed *down* a flight of industrial stairs (there are elevators, too) to start at the beginning, on

THIS SPREAD AND PREVIOUS: MICHAEL PIAZZA

TINY ARMS
CERAMICS

Among the diverse mix of artists and offerings at Western Avenue Studios are (CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT): Slow Hands Studio partners Sam Kim and Leena Cho, whose wares include hand-crafted jewelry and ceramics; Tiny Arms Coffee Roasters; clothing designer Queen Allotey-Pappoe, founder of the Queen Adeline brand; hand-blown glass marbles by Peter Zimmerman; Allotey-Pappoe's sustainably made fashions inspired by the colors and textiles of Africa.

THE GOOD SUPPLY
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OPEN

Floor 1, one story below the entrance. And here I encounter siblings Melinda, David, and Shmuel—young entrepreneurs who are eager to share their work, and excited when I buy three. Then they take me to meet their mother, Queen Allotey-Pappoe, who is standing in her gallery, surrounded by the colors of Ghana and the vibrant clothes she makes from them. She is tweaking the Manye (translates to "Queen") vest a customer is trying on, and it's probably safe to say this woman has never worn anything quite so full of joy.

"I've been dressing women as long as I can remember!" says Allotey-Pappoe, the creative director of her clothing line, Queen Adeline. Her "wearable art" is steeped in sustainability: "I want to help reduce waste in closets, and I *only* use 100 percent cotton," she emphasizes. Fabrics that her mother buys in Ghana, and brings to her. "I ask for one thing, she comes with something else," Allotey-Pappoe nods her head. "And she's always right!"

The clothes are electrifying. A celebration of women as birds of paradise, capable of wearing magenta geometrics, melon-colored pinwheels, indigo dots in rippling circles. "I express myself in color and print," she says. The silhouettes are timeless, with pockets "to hide our sins." She pauses for effect: "And for lipstick!" She is the self-appointed Chief Joy Officer at the studios, even on bad days, because "that energy works for itself. That same energy picks me up!"

Back in the hallway, I set off down a corridor that reminds me of a village street, with alleyways spinning off

TRISTAN SPINSKI

CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: Catherine McLetchie, owner and curator of The Good Supply in Pemaquid, Maine; The Good Supply's interior, packed with Maine-made artisan goods; an enamel, copper, and silver necklace inspired by mussels and barnacles by Kate Mess of Jefferson; Kate with her husband, Jonathan Mess, an artist who specializes in ceramic sculpture.

in different directions. A medieval township of creatives. Who lives behind this door? Or this one?

A hanging handsaw points the way to Woodworkers Row, and I step inside Eric White's stump-studded workshop. His aptly named Spalt Studio is a forest of lathes and chisels, bristling with woodworking implements. A woodturner by night, he's also executive director of the Boston Society of Architects, with a past that includes Old Sturbridge Village. Chunks of raw local wood, many salvaged from the side of the road, are heaped to one side, like potential waiting to be polished: a natural-edge oak bowl; swirling grains in slender catalpa; a spalted maple

(Continued on p. 136)

MY BEACH

CLUB

Looking out over the waters of a quiet New Hampshire pond, the author's mother, Barbara, sits on the local beach club dock c. 1993.

When your roots in a place you love go back generations, change can be painful. Especially when you are the one pushing for change.

BY BILL DONAHUE

There are more than 11,000 lakes and ponds in New England, and this story concerns just one of them. It is, in fact, focused solely on the events that transpired one spring and summer on a sliver of shore lining a single obscure pond.

In the summer of 2020, I ran for president at a small beach club in rural New Hampshire. In fact, I instigated the first-ever contested election in the 130-year history of our swimming society. I ran against a 34-year incumbent intent on staying in power. Over a bruising five-week campaign season, I beseeched the club's 130 adult members for executive dominion over 150 feet of lakefront, a $15,000 annual budget, a rented port-a-potty, a scraggly half-acre lawn, and three splintery, barebones changing houses sitting beneath a cool skirt of gently swaying pine trees.

The name of the pond isn't important. To me, it has always just been *the* pond. I learned to swim there back in 1969, when I was 5. My mother learned to swim there as well, as did my grandmother, and *her* ancestors began dipping their toes into the water back in the 1880s. A few years ago, when my mother was very old and ravaged by Parkinson's, she meditated on the pond, calling to mind its tranquil black surface whenever she found herself beset by wild quavering and shortness of breath. In 2017, my siblings and I cast her ashes onto the water.

(Continued on p. 142)

2023 SUMMER TRAVEL GUIDE

BEST OF NEW

Looking for some vacation inspiration? *Yankee*'s editors round up nearly 200 picks for

FROM LEFT: WINKY LEWIS; RAYMOND FORBES LLC/STOCKSY; DIANE DIEDERICH PHOTOGRAPHY

ENGLAND

MASSACHUSETTS 80
RHODE ISLAND 96
CONNECTICUT 100
VERMONT 104
MAINE 110
NEW HAMPSHIRE 116

where to eat, where to stay, and what to do this summer in every New England state.

FROM LEFT: CATE BROWN; LUKE MOORE PHOTO; GIANT GIANTS

MASSACHUSETTS

High Street Place
FOOD HALL

FOOD HALL: High Street Place, Boston

SPOTLIGHT: BOSTON

BUDGET-CHIC HOTEL

> CitizenM Boston North Station

The 272-room hotel stacked atop TD Garden and North Station prides itself on "affordable luxury for the people." And at about 183 square feet apiece, CitizenM's rooms deliver sleek, smart spaces that make use of every inch. King-size beds and slumber-inducing duvets cozy up the experience, while the hotel lobby features a self-service check-in and grab-and-go food options that won't hold you back from exploring the city. *citizenm.com*

CAN'T-MISS MUSEUM

> Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

The MFA has been the beating heart of the Boston art scene since 1870, presenting its collection in ways intended to foster a deeper understanding of our past, present, and future. Case in point: the ongoing multigallery exhibit "Stories Artists Tell," in which each gallery has a theme that both stands on its own and complements its companion galleries in creating an unforgettable visual anthology. *mfa.org*

CHINESE RESTAURANT

> Yunnan Kitchen

The Yunnan province of China, located in the far southwest on the Laos border, boasts a cuisine rich in aromatic ingredients like chilies, citrus, pineapples, mushrooms, and pickles. Yisha Siu brought this underrepresented cuisine to Boston's South End last spring after a successful run in Brighton. Try the crispy Yunnan pancake (think giant latke, but more flavorful), the fried mushroom starter, or the stir-fried beef with fresh mint. *yunnankitchensouthend.com.*

FOOD HALL

> High Street Place

If Boston's financial district workers are reluctant to return to in-person work, lunch at High Street Place will sweeten the deal considerably. This jam-packed food hall features some of Boston's top eateries: Blackbird Doughnuts, Gracenote Coffee, Mamaleh's Deli, Hayley Jane's Fried Chicken. The crowning Jewel: Chef Tiffani Faison's trio of restaurants, with Tenderoni's excellent pizza, the Bubble Bath champagne and wine bar, and Dive Bar, home of Boston's best lobster roll. *highstreetplace.com*

FOODIE FIND

> EBO & Co. Grocery

Spun off from owner Alexis Cervasio's cult-favorite oyster popup, EBO & Co. Grocery turns a trip to the market in East Boston into a full-blown gourmet experience. Bursting with color and worthy of an Instagram check-in, Cervasio's merchandise covers every category, from elusive wines and her own caviar line

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to Iggy's Bread croissants and Parlor Ice Cream. There's even an entire wall dedicated to hot sauce. *ebogrocery.com*

GHOST TOUR

› Ghost and Gravestones

Travel back in time by trolley to Victorian-era Boston as you navigate the city's spookiest historic sites. Costumed guides cloaked in capes and corsets lead guests through winding graveyards while relaying bone-chilling tales of ghastly figures and ghostly phenomena. While tours lean heavily into a kitschy vibe, their creepy tales will satisfy both history buffs and paranormal enthusiasts of all kinds. *ghostsandgravestones.com/boston*

IN-TOWN GLAMPING

› Backstage at The Verb Hotel

One of Boston's most unusual overnight stays comes complete with a heavy dose of nostalgia and luxe accessories. Curated artwork and rare music collectibles adorn each of Backstage's glammed-up trailers, while plush king-size beds and high-end linens amp up the experience (as do turntables with access to The Verb's vinyl library). The hotel's heated pool invites you to take a dip, and Fenway concerts are so close that you won't even need to buy a ticket to hear it all. *backstagetrailers.com*

LUXURY SUITE

› John Adams Presidential Suite at Boston Harbor Hotel

Arrive by land or sea, duck into your private elevator, and foil the paparazzi. Boston's most exclusive suite—a 4,800-square-foot, natural-light-kissed designer's dream inside Boston Harbor Hotel's iconic rotunda—comes with unmatched amenities including a stocked bar and theater-caliber media room, plus personalized chef and dedicated concierge services. Through a window wall 20 feet tall or from your 1,000-square-foot heated, open-air terrace, the historic harbor is ever in view. *bostonharborhotel.com*

NEW HOTEL

› Raffles Boston Back Bay Hotel & Residences

If it's anything like the original in Singapore, Raffles's first North American hotel will find its way into literary works, mixology history, and vacation memories steeped in the allure of a world-class city. The 35-story, reflective-glass tower is an instant landmark. Book the moment that reservations open this summer, and be among the first to sip drinks in the Sky Bar, pose on the Grand Stair, and put Raffles butlers' legendary service to the test. *rafflesboston.com*

NEW RESTAURANT

› Faccia a Faccia

Ken Oringer and Jamie Bissonnette are such seasoned restaurateurs that they make opening an award-winning eatery on Newbury Street (land of outrageous rents, no parking, and so-so lunch spots) look effortless. Come for a post-shopping dinner, stay for agnolotti with lobster, sunchokes, and almond or crispy chicken Milanese with shaved artichokes and truffles. Start with the crudos, end with baked Sorrentina (like baked Alaska, but with gelato and yuzu cream). *facciaafacciaboston*

AFRICAN DIASPORA CUISINE

› Comfort Kitchen

The mission of Comfort Kitchen is far more ambitious than "merely" serving delicious food, though one bite of the jerk-roasted duck or the Basque cheesecake will check that box. The Dorchester restaurant weaves a narrative

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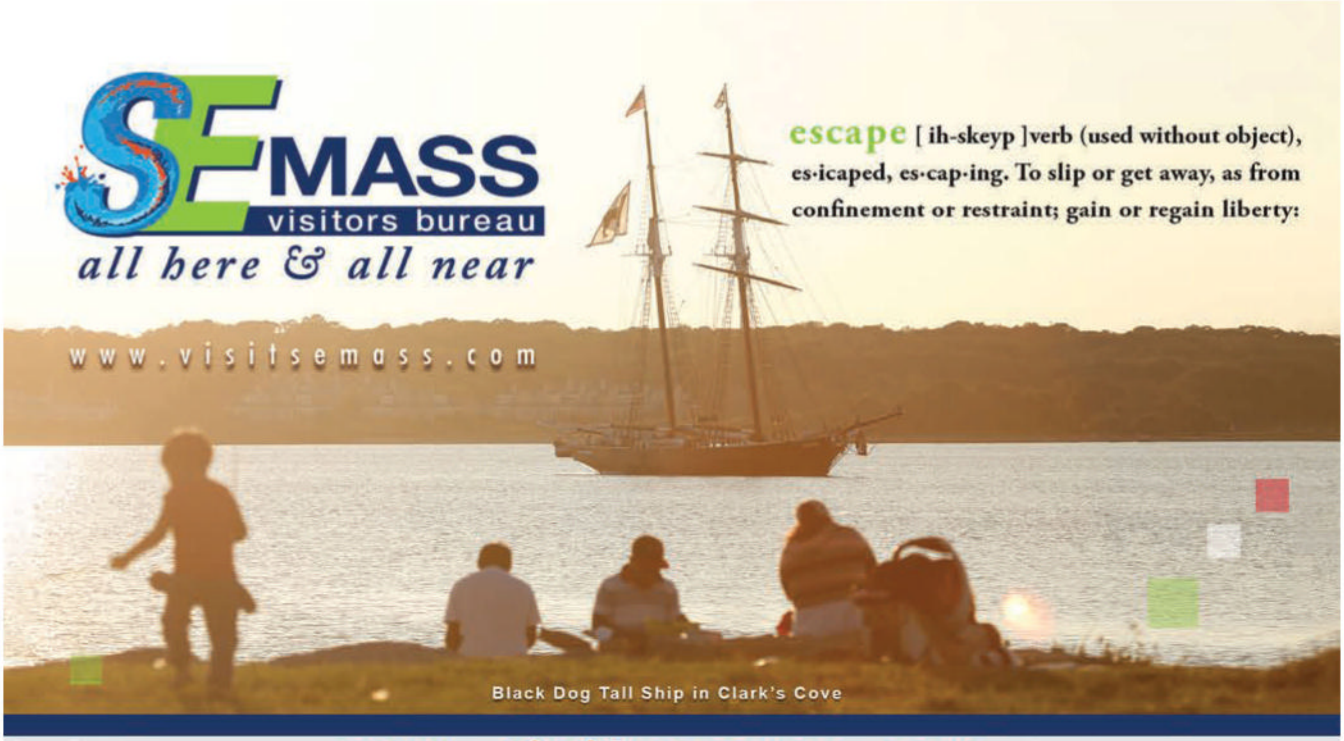

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of the global spice trade, demonstrating on each plate how the cuisines of Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and beyond informed and influenced one another. During the day, Comfort Kitchen is a cozy café serving overnight oats with Nutella and gorgeous sandwiches; at night, the real storytelling begins. *comfortkitchenbos.com*

PIZZA

> Si Cara (Cambridge)

Neapolitan *canotto*-style pizza is remarkable for an extra-puffy crust that takes up about a quarter of the pie's diameter. It's crisp, chewy, and tangy from the sourdough starter. And no one in New England does it better than Si Cara, Michael Lombardi's new pizzeria and wine bar. In summer, we love the classic Margherita. In fall, the winter squash pie with Marcona almonds and prosciutto is the ultimate slice. *sicarapizza.com*

SPOTLIGHT: WORCESTER

CITY B&B

> Vida Boutique Inn

Toeing the line between historic charm and modern comfort, the Vida Boutique Inn is a 1906 Colonial Revival in the heart of its home city. Completely renovated in 2021, Vida welcomes guests (and their small pets) with seven rooms, all of which are adorned with antique touches. The inn lays out a generous breakfast spread, and dishes can be tailored to accommodate most needs. *vidaboutiqueinn.com*

FAMILY OUTING: EcoTarium, Worcester

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DOWNTOWN HOTEL

> Beechwood Hotel

If location is everything, Beechwood has it on lockdown. A convenient launching spot to Worcester's downtown life, this pet-friendly hotel has a combination of rooms and suites, seven with fireplaces. The outdoor patio at Sonoma, the hotel

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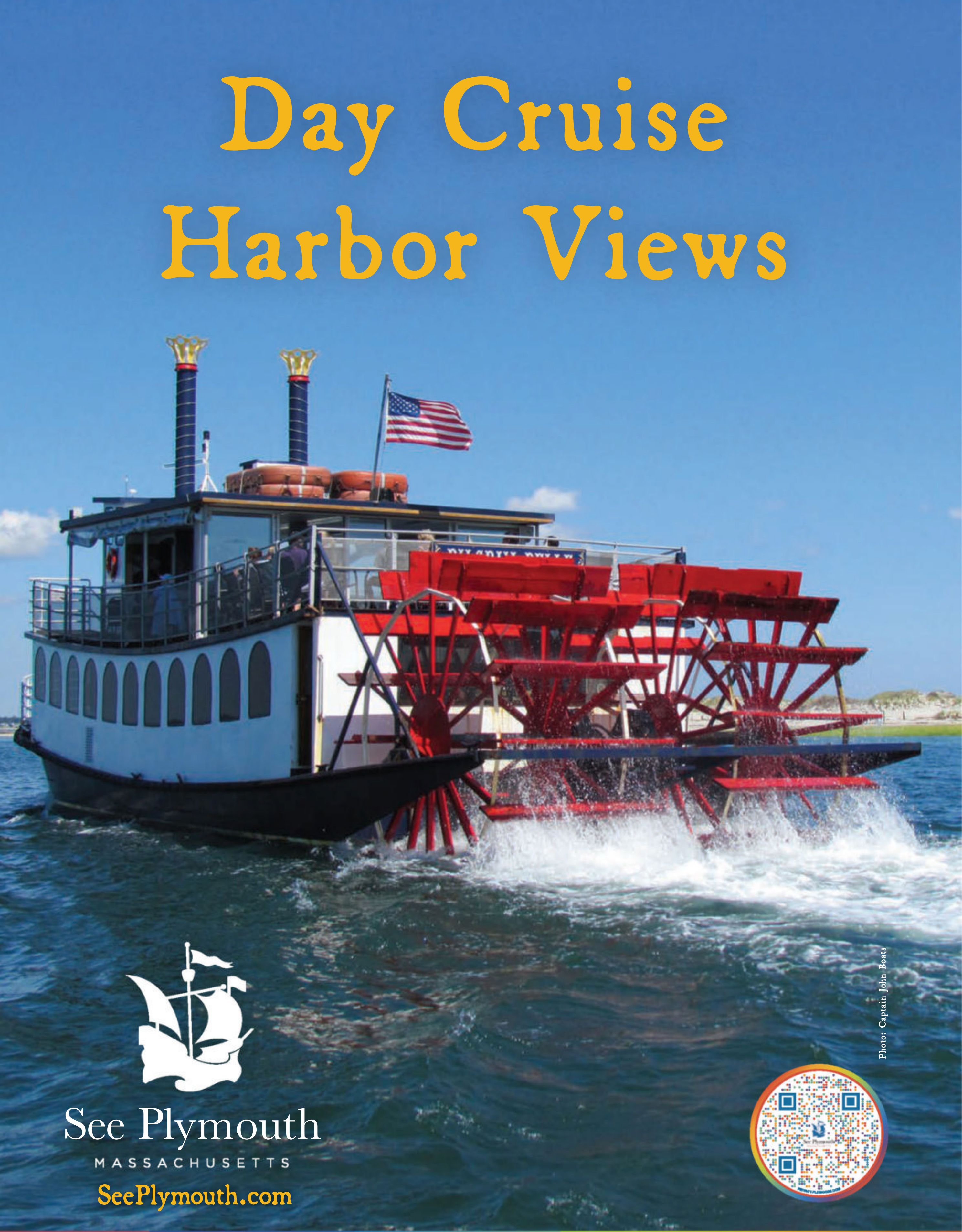

Photo: Captain John Boats

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Town of PLYMOUTH

Plymouth County Convention & Visitors Bureau MASSACHUSETTS restaurant, serves up a robust breakfast menu that will get your day started off right. *beechwoodhotel.com*

FAMILY OUTING

› EcoTarium

Budding scientists and outdoor enthusiasts alike have a home at EcoTarium. Kids flock to the animal exhibits, which include rescued critters like orphaned sibling mountain lions and an opossum named Beaker. Adults can get their steps in thanks to the property's three miles of walking trails, and visitors of all ages can explore the outer reaches of the universe at the newly renovated Alden Planetarium, the only one of its kind in Central Massachusetts. *ecotarium.org*

FARM-TO-TABLE RESTAURANT

› Deadhorse Hill

After cooking in New York and Boston, chef Jared Forman brought his outsize talents to Worcester's Main Street. Maine oysters, Vermont beef, and local produce all inspire dishes like beet salad with labne and savory granola or shio ramen with house-made noodles and pork belly (he's a whiz at any kind of pasta). *deadhorsehill.com*

INDIAN RESTAURANT

› Namaste Woo

A Worcester Public Market standout, this counter-service restaurant serves incredibly fresh, homestyle food that owner Pooja Vishal grew up making with her mother in northern India. Familiar dishes like samosas, chicken tikka, and chana masala cozy up to garlic naan tacos and harissa chicken curry. You can also bring these flavors home by buying Vishal's meal kits just down the hall at the Market Pantry. *namastewoo.com*

LOCAL MARKET

› The Market Pantry

We've never seen a better collection of New England–made foods (plus goods from further afield), from cheeses to grains to chocolates, than at this specialty market located within the Worcester Public Market. Director Tina Zlody seems to know every food producer in our six states, and she lovingly displays their goods alongside other gems like Momofuku noodle kits, linens, hot sauces, tinned fish, and charcuterie. If you like to eat local, start here. *worcesterpublicmarket.org/the-market-pantry*

RETAIL HOT SPOT

› Crompton Place

Spanning half a block, Crompton Place is home to some of Worcester's most irresistible indie retailers. Anchor store Crompton Collective, a spin on the old antique mall, has dealers and artisans constantly bringing in new products. Plant boutique Seed to Stem draws green thumbs from as far as Boston, while Bedlam Book Café is a cozy readers' paradise. Score an outfit at women's boutique Haberdash, then refuel amid live music at BirchTree Bread Co. *thecanaldistrict.com/businesses*

EDITORS' PICKS: EAT & DRINK

BAKERY, BREAD

› Berkshire Mountain Bakery, Housatonic & Pittsfield

Decades before everyone began fiddling with sourdough, Richard Bourdon was learning the craft in his native Quebec, then in Holland and France. Today, he and his team mill their own whole grains and slowly ferment the flour into focaccia, baguettes, and extraordinary pizzas. For a sweet finish, don't miss the cookies and the chocolate-studded boule. *berkshiremountainbakery.com*

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BREAKFAST SPOT

> The Baker, New Bedford

We love a carb-forward breakfast, and this bakery/café has mastered the form. There are homemade doughnuts (we love the crullers and the banana-Nutella doughnuts), egg sandwiches, tartines, biscuits, cinnamon buns, bagels, and linguica rolls, plus coffee drinks. New Bedford's food scene is on the rise, and there's no better place to start a day of exploratory noshing than here. *thebakernb.com*

DATE-NIGHT RESTAURANT

> Blackfish, Truro

Maybe it's the soft lighting, the tucked-away location, or the rustic touches of this converted former blacksmith's shop. Either way, Blackfish is romantic. And the food is excellent: house-baked bread, tuna bolognese, and even a $15 burger for a cheap(er) date. Eric Jansen and team have elevated the Outer Cape food scene and, frankly, we're in love. *blackfishtruro.com*

DESTINATION BREWERY

> Treehouse Brewery, Charlton

Treehouse now has four locations in Massachusetts and one in Woodstock, Connecticut, but the Charlton campus/flagship remains *the* place to enjoy their signature juicy IPAs on beautifully landscaped grounds with a giant picnic pavilion. Add a rotating lineup of food trucks and live music and you have a party. Just be sure to pre-order your cans and draughts online—weekend lines can be a buzzkill. *treehousebrew.com*

HISTORIC RESTAURANT

> Salem Cross Inn, West Brookfield

The 18th-century building that now houses the Salem Cross Inn was the White family farmstead for eight generations, until the Salem family took it over in the 1950s, peeling back decades of modernization right down to the original hand-cut rosehead nails. History buffs can't miss the Fireplace Feasts in the cold-weather months, with prime rib roasted on an 18th-century roasting jack, chowder made in a cast-iron cauldron, and mulled wine made with a hot poker. *salemcrossinn.com*

MEXICAN FOOD

> La Chalupa y La Enchilada, Pittsfield

Cain Serrano cooked in some of the Berkshires' top kitchens before opening this food truck, which he parks at various spots around Pittsfield, Lenox, and Great Barrington. We'll follow him anywhere for his tortilla soup, tacos al pastor,

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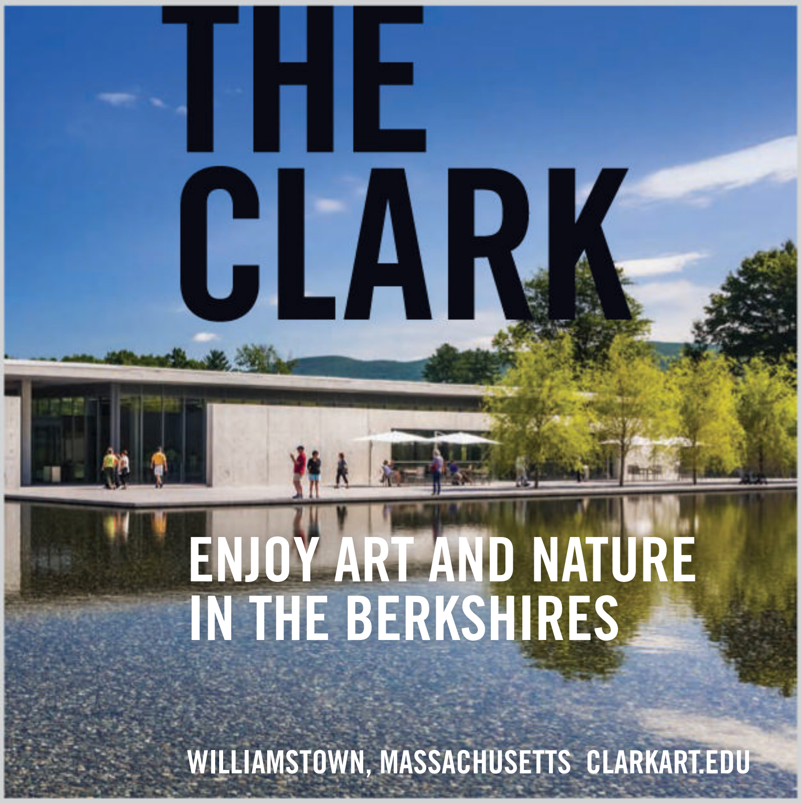
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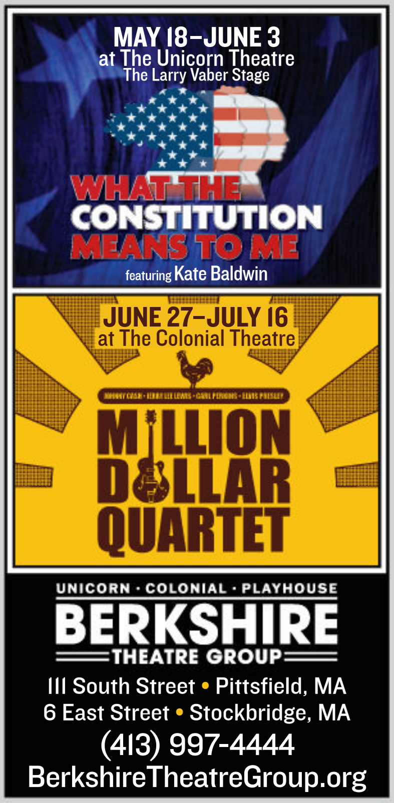
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NEW RESTAURANT

> **Calico,** Easthampton

When Coco and the Cellar Bar suddenly closed in 2021, Easthampton lost a nationally acclaimed destination restaurant. Happily, many of the original staff were able to regroup and fully reopen last August as Calico. They resurrected Coco's famous buttermilk fried chicken and added new delights like heirloom tomato salad with basil oil and crispy Parmesan frico and terrific cocktails. The space is small, so book early—the press has caught on and, ahem, the cat's out of the bag. *calicoeasthampton.com*

SEAFOOD SHACK

> **Sesuit Harbor Café,** Dennis

The bayside villages of Dennis and East Dennis boast some of the Cape's best beaches, with low-tide flats you can walk for miles. Right where the two towns meet, this charming seafood shack overlooking Sesuit Harbor serves stuffed lobster rolls, fresh oysters, excellent fried seafood, stuffies, and sashimi. Even better, they serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner in the summer. *sesuit-harbor-cafe.com*

EDITORS' PICKS: STAY

CAMPGROUND

> **Shawme-Cromwell State Forest Campground,** Sandwich

Campers of all kinds can find their happy place at Shawme. Bring a tent or an RV, or build your base camp at one of the park's six yurts. Beachgoers have free access to nearby Scusset Beach, while landlubbers can explore the property's 700-acre preserve. Kiddos of any age, meanwhile, will appreciate the playground and basketball courts. Best of all, you get a full helping of Cape fun for a fraction of the price you'd pay at a resort hotel. *mass.gov/visit-massachusetts-state-parks*

COASTAL B&B

> **Inn on the Sound,** Falmouth

The views of Nantucket Sound and Martha's Vineyard are this cliffside inn's top lures, but its accessibility is a close second. A short drive from the Sagamore, the inn is a 10-minute walk to the Nantucket ferry and less than two miles from Falmouth's lively downtown. Guests have access to the private beach across the street, while local favorite Falmouth Heights Beach is a short stroll away. All

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12 guest rooms feature an updated coastal vibe, and several also include private balconies. *innonthesound.com*

GREEN HOTEL

> Topia Inn, Adams

Solar panels and biofuel power this LEED Platinum–certified B&B, while the upscale decor and next-level amenities (chromatherapy spa tubs that use LED lights to accent the bubbling bath water, aromatherapy rain showers, organic linens) give a boost to the guest experience. Locally produced artwork and other pieces in each of the eight rooms amplify the inn's beautiful Berkshires setting. *topiainn.com*

PET PAMPERING

> Cottages at Nantucket Boat Basin, Nantucket

At this seaside resort, pups are more than embraced—they're doted on. The welcome package includes treat baskets, a personalized ID tag, a high-end therapeutic bed, and perhaps most important, an endless supply of tennis balls. A list of Nantucket's numerous pet-friendly destinations is available when you're ready to explore, or you can just consult Bailey the concierge, a Labrador mix who knows all the island's ins and outs. *thecottagesnantucket.com*

RENOVATED RESORT

> Pelham House Resort, Dennis Port

The Mid-Cape gets some time in the limelight at the recently renovated 27-room Pelham House Resort, which manages to exude coastal sophistication without pretension. Rooms and suites feature dead-on views of Nantucket Sound, while postcard-worthy vistas of breaking surf are on full display from the pool. Even better: The hotel's private beach is just steps from your door, as are the sunset cocktails at the oceanfront firepits. *pelhamhouseresort.com*

ROMANTIC OVERNIGHT

> Nobnocket Boutique Inn, Vineyard Haven

You and your significant other can escape reality together at the secluded Nobnocket, tucked away on two acres of gardens and woodlands (a rarity on tiny Martha's Vineyard). The seven-room hotel puts a twist on the traditional island inn by embracing a contemporary aesthetic—think spacious guest rooms and spa-like baths, several of which have soaking tubs. Nobnocket's acclaimed gourmet breakfasts alone are a reason to return. *nobnocket.com*

SPA ESCAPE

> Canyon Ranch, Lenox

Wellness and luxury go hand in hand at Canyon Ranch, the famed health resort nestled in the rolling beauty of the Berkshires. The Bellefontaine Mansion, a palatial Gilded Age estate turned wellness retreat, offers the perfect setting for guests to rest, recharge, and reinvigorate with a lineup of spa treatments, fitness classes, and programs that run the gamut, from nutritional guidance to group photography hikes. All meals and several perks are included in the rate. *canyonranch.com*

STAY & PLAY

> Great Wolf Lodge, Fitchburg

Great Wolf cranks the fun volume to 11 with its outdoor themes, most notably its specialized hotel rooms such as the Grizzly Wolf Den Suite, which has an en-suite cave with built-in bunk beds. The water park waves are invigorating, while mini golf, a climbing wall, an arcade, and seven on-site

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dining options will have you mapping out your next family visit before you check out. *greatwolf.com*

EDITORS' PICKS: PLAY

DOG EXCURSION

> Stodder's Neck State Park, **Hingham**

Is it a state park, or is it a dog park without the designation? Happily, it's both. Dog owners up and down the South Shore know this 23-acre park as *the* place to bring their pets for social play. The "neck" is a peninsula at the mouth of the Back River, which means the land is bounded by water on three sides; the fourth side is guarded by a sturdy stone wall. Expect to find a mix of off-leash and leashed dogs here, many of which come to play practically every day. The landscape varies from grasslands to woods to hills, while the water offers ample opportunity for cooling off. *mass.gov/locations/stodders-neck-abigail-adams-park*

DOWNTOWN SHOPPING

> Main Street, Northampton

Along the widest Main Street in New England, independent shops reign supreme. Crowds from the Five Colleges area flock to these sidewalks for shops like Beryl, a jewelry and decor store filled with Western Massachusetts artists' wares, and A2Z Science & Learning, a toy store with a stegosaurus out front. Turn onto Strong Avenue for outdoor dining options; during the peak summer months, the street vibrates with live music. For serious deals, hit July's sidewalk sale. *northampton.live*

FACTORY OUTLET

> Annie Selke, Pittsfield

The Pittsfield woolen mill that made uniforms for Civil War soldiers is now the headquarters, warehouse, and outlet for Annie Selke, the high-end textile company specializing in rugs and bedding. It has a massive following thanks in no small part to the durability of its products and its smile-inducing use of color, but it's the outlet's accessible prices that keep shoppers returning—and the annual tent sale in July is a particularly strong draw that brings customers from far and wide to hunt for deals. *annieselke.com*

FOOD EMPORIUM

> Portugalia, Fall River

The quickest way to describe this food oasis is to call it "the Eataly of Portuguese food." But that moniker fails to capture how rooted it is in the South Coast Portuguese community, nor does it convey the care with which the Benavides family sources and markets its wares. From the designated salt cod room selling every grade and cut of this staple fish, to the wines, olive oils, tinned fish, cheeses, pottery, and prepared foods, every view and flavor transports you to the heart of Portugal. Start your visit at the café, order some *pastéis de nata* (custard tarts) and a coffee, then follow your senses through the aisles. *portugaliamarketplace.com*

MOUNTAIN BIKING SPOT

> **Thunder Mountain Bike Park,** Charlemont

Thrill seekers find the speed they need at this downhill bike park designed by Gravity Logic, one of the country's premier trail-building companies. Jumps, gaps, and other elevated features cater to experienced riders, while green cruisers await the rest of us. Powered by its on-site wind turbine and solar farm, Thunder Mountain offers not just lessons and rentals, but also accommodations including on-site camping. *berkshireeast.com*

NEW ATTRACTION

> **Real Pirates,** Salem

Salem's newest immersive museum is devoted to the exploits of a band of pirates who could teach us all a thing or two about getting along. You'll meet Captain "Black Sam" Bellamy, who offered his comrades—whether African, British, Dutch, or French—a democratic say in the pillaging and a fair share of the loot. Speaking of booty: Their ship, the *Whydah*, which was wrecked off the Cape Cod coast in 1717, holds the only real pirate treasure ever discovered. While much still remains below the bottom of the sea, you'll see recovered ship artifacts and even touch silver coins brought up from the depths. For a gold-caliber experience, book a guided tour with an authentically attired pirate. *realpiratessalem.com*

STAY-ALL-DAY BEACH

> **Nantasket Beach,** Hull

It doesn't fly under the radar, but that's the charm of this South Shore classic. Along with a sandy beach that stretches for more than three miles, you'll find Paragon Boardwalk's arcade, beer garden, and Park Carousel, which dates back to 1928. Cap off the day with a cone at Carousel Creamery, then stroll the Hull ArtWalk, a free installation extending from the sand to the town center. Best of all: Parking is plentiful. *mass.gov/locations/nantasket-beach-reservation*

SUMMER PERFORMANCES

> **Groton Hill Music Center,** Groton

A jam-packed summer of pop, country, jazz, and classical concerts will pack the lawn and 1,000-seat hall—the architectural and acoustical showpiece of the Nashoba Valley's new destination for music listening and learning. Built of timber and stone in homage to the 110-acre former apple orchard on which the venue's sited, its rusticity is illusionary: This is a state-of-the-art performance space. Who can you look forward to seeing? Artists the caliber of … wait for it … Leslie Odom Jr. *grotonhill.org*

USED BOOKSTORE

> **Raven Used Books,** Northampton

Descend five steps into a labyrinth of book-filled nooks. It seems like Raven's been here forevermore, but this place to score intellectual fodder at reasonable prices is 30 years young and thriving. Whether you're helping a child pick out a new favorite or scanning walls crammed with titles on every imaginable topic, there's only one thing that disappoints: Loud ceiling creaks are coming from a clothing store upstairs, not a second story of storybooks. *ravenusedbooks.com*

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RHODE ISLAND

GUIDED TOUR: Southeast Lighthouse Tour, Block Island

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SPOTLIGHT: BLOCK ISLAND

COASTAL B&B

> Avonlea, Jewel of the Sea

Named for the fictional setting of *Anne of Green Gables*, Avonlea inspires musings about the sea that echo the heroine's—"all silver and shadow and vision of things not seen." Owner Ann Law has channeled a childhood love of the classic novel into a 10-suite bed-and-breakfast with a sunset porch wrapped around a spread of afternoon nibbles and wine, and a beach that's literally steps away. *blockislandinns.com/avonlea*

FAMILY RESORT

> Champlin's Marina & Resort

On an island ruled by Victorian inns and romantic B&Bs, Champlin's stands apart as a haven for families and yachties. Guest rooms are furled in bright nautical patterns, and a full-service marina, swimming pool, trio of on-site restaurants, and an ice cream shack overhanging Great Salt Pond create the island's only full-service resort, freshly renovated in 2021. Live bands play every summer evening at the dock bar if you don't want to venture into town for nightlife. *champlinsresort.com*

GUIDED ADVENTURE

> Block Island Fishworks

How do you know if the bluefish are biting? If you haul in a sea bass that's been chomped in half! That's just one of the lines unspooled by Captain Hank Hewitt of Block Island Fishworks, who leads guided saltwater fishing charters in pursuit of the stripers, blues, flukes, bonitos, and false albacore teeming in local waters, from the Coast Guard channel to the shadows of the Block Island Wind Farm. *sandypointco.com*

GUIDED TOUR

> Southeast Lighthouse Tour

This emblematic beacon on the southernmost tip of Block Island has a storied, nearly 150-year history. Erosion forced a move 245 feet inland from its original perch atop 200-foot clay cliffs in 1993, and while visitors could ascend stairs inside the 52-foot light tower, they were barred from entering the keeper's quarters for 28 years after that. A lengthy renovation now complete, this adjoining cottage now houses maritime history exhibits. *southeastlighthouse.org*

LUNCH SPOT

> Persephone's Kitchen

Popularity has a price, so lunch lines at this locals' favorite are a given. But high-energy dance music can turn the queue into a conga line in no time, and it's a worthy wait for co-owner Persephone Brown's homemade food. Notable noshes include an apple-dill tuna melt topped with gooey Vermont cheddar and refreshed with a Cococano—an iced blend of fresh coconut water and espresso. *persephoneskitchenbi.com*

OUTDOOR DINING

> The Oar

Row after row of brightly painted oars, some dating back to the Age of Aquarius, invite diners to swig down a frozen mudslide and reel in some locally caught calamari, sushi, and lobster. The paddles add charm to the dining room, but the seafood is best savored at sunset on the expansive lawn, where humble picnic tables offer million-dollar views of New Harbor. *blockislandresorts.com*

EDITORS' PICKS: EAT & DRINK

DESTINATION BREWERY

> Tilted Barn Brewery, Exeter

What started as a hops farm has blossomed into a beer lover's paradise. Kara and Matt Richardson's Tilted Barn farm recently started brewing its own, then built a massive, two-story tasting hall and brewery. Some 15 rotating home drafts are on tap. The grounds offer plenty of outdoor seating and several firepits. Food trucks stop by daily, offering a variety of beer-friendly victuals. The original tilted barn still stands on the farm in the distance. *tiltedbarnbrewery.com*

FOOD HALL

> Plant City, Providence

The world's first plant-based food hall comes courtesy of Maine native and vegan evangelist chef Matthew Kenney. There are four restaurant concepts in this 10,000-square-foot space, with pizza, burgers, sandwiches, smoothies, a coffee bar, a bakery, Mexican food, and a cocktail bar. It's so minimalist and modern, with a lovely outdoor patio, you'll forget all about the meat. Look for sister restaurant Plant CityX, complete with vegan drive-through, in Middletown. *plantcitypvd.com*

HISTORIC RESTAURANT

> White Horse Tavern, Newport

Established in 1673, this is America's oldest tavern. The gambrel roof, wide pine floors, and hearths breathe history, but the menu spans the centuries, with lobster bisque sharing menu space with beef Wellington, chili-glazed pork belly, and duck confit. Living large? The caviar service will have you feeling like a Gilded Age magnate. *whitehorsenewport.com*

NATIVE AMERICAN CUISINE

> Sly Fox Den Too, Charlestown

"Indigenous Flavor Served Fresh!" declares James Beard–nominated chef-owner Sherry Pocknett, a member of the nearby Mashpee Wampanoag tribe. She mixes outstanding indigenous fare with traditional American dishes at her roadside breakfast-and-lunch spot in the heart of South County. Corn cakes, nausamp (yellow corn grits), succotash, venison, quahog chowder, and bison are just some of the Native American dishes that delight curious customers. *slyfoxdenrestaurant.com*

NEW RESTAURANT

> Beech, Jamestown

Sure as the beech tree outside, which has sprawled roots and splayed branches for 150 years, this island hangout, formerly Trattoria Simpatico, came back last July with a new,

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year-round identity and reimagined indoor-outdoor spaces including the upstairs Tree House, perfect for private events. Chef-owner and Jamestown native Kevin Gaudreau, a Simpatico veteran, is wowing diners with seasonal menus focused on local seafood and fresh-made pastas. Scrumptious Saturday and Sunday brunch selections are surprisingly affordable. *beechjt.com*

PIZZA

> Pizza Marvin, Providence

James Beard–nominated chef-owner Robert Andreozzi has revolutionized pizza in Providence. His three-tiered Pizza Master electric oven churns out perfect pies with crispy, New Haven–style crusts. And the focaccia-square slices are nothing short of spectacular. Lots of locals stop in for carry-out, and there are tables inside and out for those who wish to stick around. Fresh-shucked littleneck clams and oysters are great starters, as are creatively crafted cocktails and beer. *pizzamarvin.com*

SEAFOOD SHACK

> Aunt Carrie's, Narragansett

A day on Scarborough Beach, followed by chowder and clam cakes at Aunt Carrie's, what could be better? Only a full meal of fried calamari or a lobster BLT on homemade bread, followed by a slice of blueberry pie from the on-site bakery. Since 1920, this family-run business has brought a from-scratch ethos to our favorite summer foods. *auntcarriesri.com*

VEGAN RESTAURANT

> Foglia, Bristol

Chef-owner Pete Carvelli burst onto the Rhode Island restaurant scene last year, turning heads and palates as his vegan gem just off Main Street racked up loads of loyal diners and was named Best New Restaurant by *Vegetarian Times*. Pizzas, spaghettini, and farro-fennel sausage round out the inventive menu at this intimate café/bistro, deliciously showcasing Carvelli's mission to create casual, creative plant-based fare palatable to vegans, vegetarians, and omnivores alike. *fogliabristol.com*

EDITORS' PICKS: STAY

BUDGET STAY WITH A VIEW

> The Shore House, Narragansett

For a beachy getaway that won't break the bank, consider one of the more basic options at this hotel with diverse room types across three buildings, including several that are ADA-compliant. Get here before July or after Labor Day for the best deals. Even if you're not springing for a room with an ocean view, you'll see the sea from a veranda table at Sea Craft restaurant or an Adirondack chair on the lawn. *shorehouseri.com*

GREEN HOTEL

> Weekapaug Inn, Westerly

This Relais & Châteaux property pampers its guests as it protects its setting on lovely Quonochontaug Pond with vegetated buffers of native plants and erosion-fighting stone borders. Meanwhile, the resort's geothermal heating and cooling system runs on a closed loop to avoid impacting the sensitive coastal environment. Plus, no food travels more than 155 miles to reach the property's kitchens, and all scraps are composted and repurposed into soil for farms in the region. *weekapauginn.com*

HOTEL RESTAURANT

> Cara at The Chanler Hotel at Cliff Walk, Newport

The awe-inspiring sights abound at this Forbes Five-Star restaurant, from the

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sunset views of the neighboring Cliff Walk and Easton's Beach to chef Jacob Jasinski's extravagant five- and eight- (!) course dinners. Wines are curated nightly for each dish, drawn from a list recently recognized by *Wine Spectator*'s Award of Excellence. *thechanler.com*

LUXURY SUITE

> Tower Suite at Ocean House, Watch Hill
With a polished spiral staircase and four levels to explore including a rooftop deck, you'll feel atop the world yet anchored in the most splendid of seacoast settings. Fir paneling and a crow's nest lend a ship-like aura, while Greenwich-based designer Cindy Rinfret's graceful styling, in shades of sea and creamy clouds, takes a cue from ocean views. Stand by the slate fireplace, and you can see three states through arched windows. *oceanhouseri.com*

NEW HOTEL

> The Beatrice, Providence
Somewhere, the late Beatrice DePasquale Temkin is smiling every time guests check into their swanky, apartment-style digs … every time they pick up this month's book club read … and, certainly, when they clink glasses in the exclusive rooftop lounge or share pasta plates and mountains of glistening, chocolate-sauced gelato at Bellini. But hopefully, Providence's long-reigning society queen, whose spirit imbues every facet of her namesake, not-quite-two-year-old hotel, averts her gaze when you discover your room's heated toilet seat. *thebeatrice.com*

PET PAMPERING

> Paws on Pelham, Newport
In the heart of Newport, there's only one B&B that takes dog-welcoming to extremes. With delightful doghouses or dog Murphy beds built into each of its 13 guest rooms, and canine-themed wall coverings and accent pieces all around, you and your pup or two will feel totally at home. Breakfast's included for humans, and you'll want to linger on the front porch or rooftop before setting out with dog-friendly sightseeing recommendations from the inn's in-the-know team. *pawsonpelham.com*

EDITORS' PICKS: PLAY

ANIMAL ENCOUNTER

> Breakfast with the Animals at Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence
Never mind whether you'll load up your plate with scrambled eggs or pastries from the hot breakfast buffet. The real choice is whether to start your day with elephants, giant river otters, or a zebra and a wildebeest. No matter how you slice your bacon, you'll have access to animals and inner zoo workings that's denied to the typical visitor. Plus, you'll be inside the gates before anyone else. Make reservations for select dates. *rwpzoo.org*

GENERAL STORE

> Groundswell Café + Bakery, Garden + Home, Table + Provisions, Tiverton
Designer David Fierabend and his husband, John McDowell, have taken the mid-1870s general store and two antique houses at Tiverton Four Corners and created a new style of multipurpose shopping and dining destination that is highly Instagrammable. Duck behind the general store turned Parisian café for snaps in the flowery meadow before ordering cream-filled seasonal croissants; then scoop up eye-pleasing goods for gardening, decorating, and entertaining with joie de vivre. *groundswellcafegarden.com*

GHOST TOUR

> Providence Ghost Tour, Providence
Clutch your lantern and tread carefully the cobblestoned streets Edgar Allen Poe once walked as your guide spins tales of specters whose business remains unfinished. For an even more thrilling night, sign on to assist with a paranormal investigation. Or book a ghost tour afloat, offered in collaboration with Providence River Boat Company or La Gondola Providence, and meet an entirely different cast of spooks. *providenceghosttour.com*

MOUNTAIN BIKING SPOT

> Woody Hill, Bradford
It's been five years since the first 20 miles of sustainable trails were etched across four preserved parcels by local mountain bikers. Now 71 trails, all named after local craft brews, offer 33 miles of pure exhilaration for riders. There are wide, flowy trails for novices; flat, single-track options for speed lovers; and advanced trails with big technical features for those who really want to earn their Hobbit Juice (at Beer'd Brewing, just across the Connecticut state line). *rinemba.org*

NEW ATTRACTION

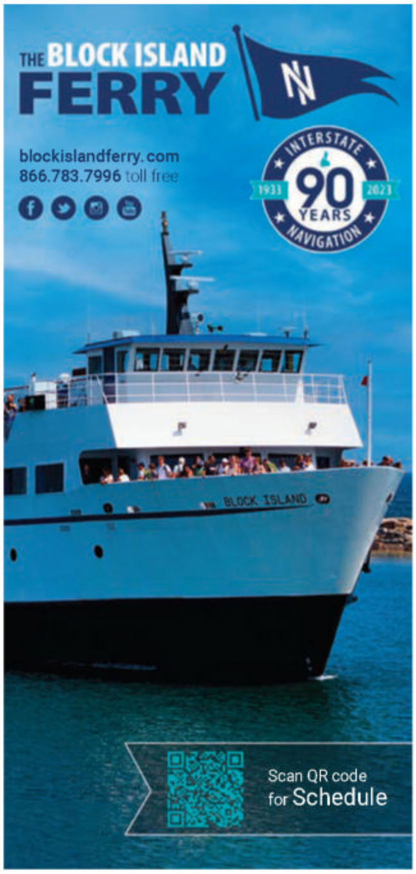
> Cape Verdean Museum, Pawtucket
At roughly four times its previous size, the country's only museum devoted solely to the history and culture of Cape Verdeans now shares even more previously untold stories through imagery, artifacts, pop-up exhibitions, and events. Among the first African people to immigrate to America, Cape Verdeans were whalers, shipbuilders, and cranberry harvesters. Celebrating Cape Verdeans' legacy throughout their diaspora is a passion-fueled endeavor for the museum's all-volunteer team. Your visit's an opportunity to relate to the universals that connect immigrants past and present. *capeverdeanmuseum.org*

STARGAZING SPOT

> Ladd Observatory, Providence
Public open nights are a Tuesday tradition at Brown University's landmark observatory, which has been altered little since 1891. Snag free tickets online and embark on a celestial journey nearly identical to the one experienced by 19th-century observers who peered through the same telescope. We know so much more now than we did then, yet you'll still feel a chill of wonder and mystery. *brown.edu*

USED BOOKSTORE

> Arc{hive} Book + Snackery, Warren
Choose an intriguing read and a comfortable seat inside this literary salon dressed in glossy woods and warm shades of pine and spicy mustard. Now, pair that mystery with a martini and locally farmed mushroom toast, or that juicy romance with Anchor & Hope's fizzy piquette, plus baked ricotta with *urfa biber* for a bit of heat. You'll be so enchanted, you'll want to return on a "Tunesday" for live music or for Second Sunday Supper Club. *archivebooksnackery.com*



CONNECTICUT

AFFORDABLE CULTURE: Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven

SPOTLIGHT: NEW HAVEN

AFFORDABLE CULTURE

> Yale University Art Gallery

It's free. And it's spectacular. This world-class art museum boasts over 200,000 pieces from antiquity through current times. Housed in three connected, architecturally significant buildings, the walkable galleries showcase paintings, sculpture, and artifacts from around the world. Plus, some 60 paintings from the temporarily closed Yale Museum of British Art will be on loan through December. *artgallery.yale.edu*

DATE-NIGHT RESTAURANT

> Tavern on State

Bathed in the warmth of candlelight and lovingly selected music, this State Street eatery delivers on food and atmosphere in equal measure. Chef Emily Mingrone's award-winning restaurant features a constantly changing selection of small plates. Summertime favorites include peaches and prosciutto, scallop crudo, pan con tomate with sauteed summer squash, and pan-roasted prawns. Co-owner Shane McGowan works the bar with such inventive cocktails as the gin-infused, Dorothy Parker–inspired "Under the Host." *tavernonstate.com*

DOWNTOWN STAY

> Graduate New Haven

This vintage downtown hostelry radiates warmth, comfort, and Ivy League prestige. Guest rooms are appointed with antiques, plush beds, and Yale Bulldog memorabilia. Three cozy studies off the lobby offer overstuffed sofas and chairs and built-in bookcases—perfect spots to get happily lost in a good read. A convivial coffee bar serves beverages and pastries. And be sure to check out the wood-stained Heidelberg Bar in the basement, one of the oldest taverns in the city. *graduatehotels.com/new-haven*

JAPANESE RESTAURANT

> Hachiroku

There's no sign out front. Just the day's menu tacked by the front door. This Japanese speakeasy of sorts exceeds all expectations when it comes to unique cuisine. Hachiroku specializes in dishes plucked straight from the streets of Tokyo. Try the succulent black cod, the salty salmon roe, the marinated fried chicken, and the Berkshire pork tenderloin. And be sure to enjoy a sake flight—there are 30-plus kinds to choose from. *Instagram*

LOCAL MARKET

> Nica's Market

Equally popular with local Italian-Americans and the denizens of nearby Yale University, Nica's is the social nexus of the colorful East Rock neighborhood. From its robust, meticulously curated produce section to its deli cases brimming with salads and steam tables of fresh-cooked entrees, this market has it all. Be sure to grab a fresh-brewed espresso or cappuccino on your way out to enjoy on Nica's sun-splashed patio. *nicasmarket.com*

NEW HOTEL

> Hotel Marcel

Calling all environmentalists, architecture buffs, and weary I-95 travelers. Connecticut's own architect-developer Bruce Redman Becker has transformed a long-vacant landmark, Marcel Breuer's Brutalist-style Armstrong Rubber Building, into a model of contemporary sustainability: It's one of only a

ELIZABETH FELICELLA, COURTESY OF YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

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handful of LEED Platinum–certified hotels on the continent. That eco-cred is abundantly evident, yet what you'll notice more is how reclaimed materials preserve the '70s aesthetic. And how peacefully you'll sleep thanks to triple-glazed windows and blackout shades. *hotelmarcel.com*

OUTDOOR RECREATION

› **East Rock Park**

Need a respite from New Haven's city streets? Check out the 425-acre East Rock Park, with its stone escarpment towering more than 300 feet above New Haven. Several miles of hiking and biking paths wind throughout, with a few that lead to East Rock's summit, offering spectacular views of the city below. Rent a kayak on the Mill River, or check out the annual outdoor Shakespeare play held at adjacent Edgerton Park. *newhavenct.gov*

EDITORS' PICKS: EAT & DRINK

BAKERY, BREAD

› **Soleil Bakery,** Woodstock

Step around industrial-size sacks of flour stacked on the bakery floor and place your order at Soleil's pastry-packed glass counter. The aroma of fresh-baked bread permeates this Quiet Corner bakery tucked away in a modest strip mall. Loaves emerge from the ovens throughout the day, along with a vast array of cookies, cakes, pies, muffins, brownies, and more. Local favorite: the melt-in-your-mouth kalamata bread, loaded with tart, brined Greek olives. *Facebook*

COFFEE ROASTER

› **Perkatory Coffee Roasters,** Middletown

On your way to heaven (or Hartford), be sure to grab a cup of soul-reviving java at Perkatory. Steeped in the skate-punk culture of the 1980s, this youthful place is tricked out with lots of spooky art and skateboards repurposed into seats and benches. Their most popular offerings include drip, espresso, and cold-brew coffees and lattes made from single-source beans roasted on the premises. Check out the roasting machine churning away behind the counter. *perkatoryroasters.com*

DESTINATION BREWERY

› **Elicit Brewing,** Manchester

Elicit is that special brewery that welcomes the entire family. Housed in an 1800s brick mill building, the expansive space includes a beer hall with dozens of brews on tap, several rooms for private parties, and a massive beer garden with firepits out back. And there's a kitchen counter for ordering light meals and bar foods. Numerous pinball machines and arcade games keep the kids (and adults) busy in this frenetic hall of fun. *elicitbrewing.com*

HISTORIC RESTAURANT

› **Griswold Inn,** Essex

How's this for history? The Griswold Inn is one of the oldest in the country and was occupied by British soldiers during the War of 1812. Today, "The Gris" is a peaceful gathering spot with a priceless collection of maritime and other antiques, sea chanty singalongs on Monday nights, and a global menu with some New England classics (chowder, fish and chips, and prime rib). Don't miss the apple pie. *griswoldinn.com*

NEW RESTAURANT

› **Materia,** Bantam

This newest star in the Litchfield dining firmament is wowing foodies from near and far. Chef-owner David DiStasi, a Le Bernardin alum, brings his fresh take on Italian cuisine to a six-course tasting menu and à la carte delights such as roasted corn velouté, tagliatelle al ragú, and aged Rohan duck breast. Finish with a nip from Materia's seductive grappa cart. *materiaristo.com*

PIZZA

› **Sparrow Pizza Bar,** West Hartford

Hometown boy Adam Greenberg has returned after multiple *Chopped* championships to helm this busy, colorful bistro that's half pizza joint, half watering hole. The bar pizzas feature paper-thin crust with inventive, mostly veggie toppings. Street art enlivens the walls, adding to the electric atmosphere. There are more than 25 seats around the oval-shaped bar, providing a focal point for socializing and game watching on flat-screen TVs. *sparrowpizzabar.com*

SEAFOOD SHACK

› **Lobster Landing,** Clinton

This salt-scrubbed shack perched on pilings over Long Island Sound serves our favorite hot-and-buttered Connecticut-style roll. Owner Enea Bacci sources meat from Long Island Sound and delicately poaches it in lobster stock, giving it wonderful sweetness. The menu is limited, but the lobster bisque and chowder are also great, and the sausage sub with peppers will satisfy the seafood-averse. *lobsterlandingct.com*

EDITORS' PICKS: STAY

BUDGET STAY WITH A VIEW

› **Blackberry River Inn,** Norfolk

When lodging prices in western Massachusetts spike during the summer arts season, rates remain steady and reasonable 45 minutes south in the Berkshire foothills. Set on 27 acres with gentle ridgelines in view—even while you're cooling off in the outdoor pool—activity here revolves around the 1763 main house, where breakfast, featuring signature raised waffles, is served every morning. *blackberryriverinn.com*

GREEN HOTEL

› **Saybrook Point Resort & Marina,** Old Saybrook

Four-star and eco-friendly don't always go hand in hand, but they come together in grand style at Saybrook Point. The resort became the state's first "Green Lodging"–certified hotel in 2009, but it didn't stop there: From the pool warmed by recycled heat to biofuel generators, and from locally focused cuisine to electric vehicle charging stations, Saybrook Point continues to set the eco-innovation bar high. *saybrook.com*

HOTEL RESTAURANT

› **Terreno at the Goodwin Hotel,** Hartford

After a prolonged closure, there's a restaurant again at the capital's finest hotel. And not just any restaurant: Celebrated chef Tyler Anderson is behind a menu of comforting California-Italian dishes crafted with travelers and the pre-theater crowd in mind. Start with Sicilian-style pizzettes, made with superb local bakery Small State Provisions' focaccia, before you oink out on house-made pasta or cioppino loaded with East Coast seafood. *terrenorestaurant.com*

LUXURY SUITE

› **Greenhouse at Winvian Farm,** Morris

For lovers of architecture and design and cravers of pampering and privacy, Winvian Farm's cottages and the surrounding 113 acres of woodlands and fields are the ultimate escape. While options like Treehouse and Helicopter are fantastically whimsical, the restyled, dog-friendly Greenhouse is our choice for a summer steal-away. Steps from the spa and pool, and with its own jetted bathtub and stone-walled patio, it's a space where nature seeps into your psyche. The Great Room's high glass ceiling lets a little starlight magic in, too. *winvian.com*

PET PAMPERING

› **Delamar Greenwich Harbor,** Greenwich

If pups could talk, they'd implore their families to take them to this swanky, marina-side hotel. Not just because the pet amenities here include a welcome treat and a snuggly bed, plus add-on services like walking, grooming, and even dog massage. But because a portion of the nightly $50 pet fee is donated to local nonprofit Adopt-a-Dog, ensuring homes as loving as yours will be found for their canine kin. *delamar.com*

ROMANTIC OVERNIGHT

› **The Homestead,** Madison

A vitamin-infused shower softens your skin; 1,000-thread-count sheets soften your sleep;

and beach passes and bikes to borrow make playful adventures easy-breezy for you and your boo. Mood-setting vinyl will be waiting by your room's record player if you share your musical tastes pre-arrival, and two outdoor firepits make staying "out" late to sip wine and stargaze equally inviting. *homesteadmadison.com*

STAY & PLAY

> Water's Edge Resort & Spa, Westbrook
A private, creamy-sand beach is a rare amenity in Connecticut. And with indoor and outdoor pools to complement the gently wavy waters of Long Island Sound, all of your cool-off options are covered. But wait: There are more reasons you'll rarely venture off-property. Play tennis, revive your skin at the spa, dine at four restaurants, and don't miss the spectacle that is Sunday brunch. *watersedgeresortandspa.com*

EDITORS' PICKS: PLAY

ANIMAL ENCOUNTER

> Riverside Reptiles Education Center, Enfield
Most days, especially weekends, you can interact with a few of the 200-plus creatures that inhabit education- and conservation-focused Riverside Reptiles. Private experiences, though, are even more unforgettable. Spend 20 minutes with a reticulated python in your lap. Hand-feed giant tortoises Leo and Fig and African spurred tortoise Tank (but don't wear red sneakers, which they're apt to confuse for strawberries). Or be zookeeper for a half day … if you can deal with cleaning up reptile poop. *riversidereptileseducationcenter.com*

GENERAL STORE

> Warren General Store, Warren
The late-19th-century general store at the crossroads of Litchfield County had been vacant eight years when John Favreau decided to restore it. He's now run Warren's vibrant hub for four years—and he's crushing it, with smartly curated products from emergency necessities (Pampers!) to local craft and gourmet goods to order-ahead indulgences (caviar!). People drive miles for the privately roasted coffee, pastries, creative sandwiches, to-go meals, hand-selected wines, and yesteryear community spirit. *warrengeneral.com*

GHOST TOUR

> Seaside Shadows Haunted History Tours, Mystic
Walk among Mystic's dead, who may or may not be RIP-ing, on a lantern-lit tour that is equal parts history lesson and creepy-good fun. Think you'll need liquid courage? A paranormal pub crawl is the option to book. Once you've met Mystic's spirits, venture across the Rhode Island state line for a rendezvous with the souls of shipwrecked sailors and the witches of Westerly. *seasideshadows.com*

NEW ATTRACTION

> Connecticut Golf Land, Vernon
A 50-year-old attraction that shut down in 2014 is resurrected at last. Golf Land is set to open in May with all-new family enticements including dinosaur-themed mini golf, bumper boats, and the Rocking Horse Smokehouse: a barbecue restaurant in an old movie theater. ConeHeads ice creamery will satisfy your cravings for classic flavors. And as summer progresses, even more fun will be on offer: Watch for a game room, volleyball courts, and a rooftop patio. *connecticutgolfland.com*

STAY-ALL-DAY BEACH

> Ocean Beach Park, New London
Soft sand and the Sound's relatively gentle, warm waves may be the main attraction, but a multitude of amusements keep Ocean Beach lively 14 hours each day. There's an Olympic-size pool, a Spray Park for kids, an arcade, mini golf, water slides, and nostalgic rides, plus everything you might want to consume including bay scallop pizza and local beers. As daylight wanes, hear a band, learn to salsa or line dance, "Ooh!" at fireworks, or admire classic cars. *ocean-beach-park.com*

SUMMER PERFORMANCES

> Levitt Pavilion, Westport
You don't have to be besties with the promoter. You don't have to be caller number nine. You just have to scoop up free tickets online or at the box office before any of the more than "50 Free Nights Under the Stars" hosted by Westport's riverfront venue each summer. You can see big names here, too, for a price. It's a feel-good investment that helps to sustain a 50-year-old nonprofit with a mission of making live music accessible for all. *levittpavilion.com*

USED BOOKSTORE

> Pourings & Passages, Danielson
Playful, bright, and eight times the size of its old space, this volunteer-powered purveyor of children's books, best sellers, movies, music, craft kits, and puzzles may cure your Amazon addiction. Prices are more than fair. All proceeds benefit St. James School just around the bend. And the tiny café is just mighty enough to keep you browsing for hours if that's your heart's content. *pouringsandpassages.com*

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VERMONT

NEW RESTAURANT:
The Grey Jay, Burlington

SPOTLIGHT: BURLINGTON

DOWNTOWN STAY

> Hotel Vermont

Ten years on since making its debut in the Queen City, this independent boutique hotel continues to set the pace with its chic Vermont-centric decor and emphasis on local products (right down to the Burlington-roasted Brio coffee you'll sip from a mug made by Waterbury's Jeremy Ayer). Depending on the season, you can borrow a bike or snowshoes to go exploring, then return to the year-round culinary delights of the hotel's farm-to-table restaurant, Juniper. *hotelvt.com*

FAMILY OUTING

> ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain

ECHO's waterfront location sets the stage for kids' deep dive into the wonders of science and nature. Among the 100-plus hands-on exhibits are a replica shipwreck and a mini "news studio" for budding TV reporters; a revamp in 2020 added the permanent exhibits "Awesome Forces" and Engineer It." Live critters remain the undisputed stars, though, with more than 70 species—fish, amphibians, and reptiles—on hand to greet young visitors. *echovermont.org*

LOCAL MARKET

> City Market, Onion River Co-op

Self-described as a co-op/grocery hybrid, City Market keeps Vermont front and center at its two Burlington stores, with nearly three-quarters of its vendors based in the state. Grab-and-go meals featuring local breads, meat, and produce; selections from 50-plus area breweries; and packable treats like chocolate "Bernie Bars" make it a bonanza for travelers. Meanwhile, support for local food systems and nonprofit partnerships make it a boon to the community. *citymarket.coop*

NEW RESTAURANT

> The Grey Jay

Opened last year the same week that longtime breakfast oasis Penny Cluse Café shuttered for good, this brunch specialist has kept the spirits of a.m. diners high with Eastern Mediterranean–inspired fare (falafel Benedicts, shakshuka, house-made simit bread) that borrows inspiration from its parent restaurant, the much-revered Honey Road. Don't miss the doughnuts by Honey Road's James Beard–nominated pastry chef, Amanda Wildermuth. *greyjayvt.com*

SPORTS STOP

> J Skis x Ski the East Intergalactic Headquarters

Call it an only-in-Vermont mashup: ski shop meets museum meets family-friendly bar meets community gathering space. At this freewheeling Main Street newcomer, you can browse gear from J Skis and apparel from Ski the East, then stick around for snacks at the J Brewskis bar and lounge and catch some of the alpine action playing nonstop on the big monitor. *jskis.com/pages/brewskis*

VEGAN RESTAURANT

> Pingala Café

Comfort food gets a conscience at this

AMANDA YOUNG, COURTESY OF THE GREY JAY

100-percent-plant-based eatery, whose Crunchwrap Supreme—a grilled wrap loaded with vegan chili and queso, brown rice, and tostadas—earned raves from the Food Network's Guy Fieri. And with Pingala's recently added second location and roving Broccoli Bar food truck, there's even more of the vegan yumminess (including gluten-free desserts) to go around. *pingalacafe.com*

EDITORS' PICKS: EAT & DRINK

BAKERY, BREAD

> **King Arthur Baking Company,** Norwich

Bake 100,000 baguettes each year, and you probably have it figured out. But there's more to the Norwich retail store of New England's favorite flour company than those classic long thin loaves. A crusty French batard lends character to sandwiches, fresh puffy rolls make any dinner a holiday feast, and the bakery's "Just Bread" … isn't. *kingarthurbaking.com*

BAKERY, SWEETS

> **Grandma Miller's,** South Londonderry

In a big red barn on a scenic stretch of Route 100, third-generation baker David Nunnikhoven and his crew turn sweet doughs and fine fruit and nut fillings into a delicious array of pies, cookies, horns, bars, buns, loaves, and much more. These treats may be purchased "for later," but more than a few travelers wind up driving along with lemon square or Linzer heart crumbs in their laps. *grandmamillers.net*

COCKTAIL SPOT

> **Au Comptoir,** Woodstock

When it opened last year in a century-old cottage across from the Woodstock Welcome Center, Au Comptoir immediately stood out for its polished look and homey feel—a combination that will surprise no one who knows the owner, Zoe Zilian, aka the cofounder of Farmhouse Pottery. Zilian's sensibilities can be seen everywhere from the decor (weathered brick, bare wood, white marble) to the thoughtfully curated menu of classic cocktails and small bites. The fresh floral arrangements, too, are a lovely touch. *aucomptoirvt.com*

DESTINATION BREWERY

> **Lawson's Finest Liquids,** Waitsfield

The liquid here is beer—the kind to rival cheese and maple as Vermont's star commodity. In the heart of the Mad River Valley, where cyclists and skiers work up a mighty thirst, Lawson's cozy taproom serves a heady array of IPAs, Pilsners, stouts, and porters with light fare to match, and a side of jazz, blues, and folk. Check the schedule for occasional beer-themed dinners and the ever-popular oyster and Irish stout Thursdays. *lawsonsfinest.com*

FOODIE EXPERIENCE

> **Esmeralda,** Andover

Esquire, *The New York Times*, the James Beard Foundation—rarely does this kind of media attention surround food made at home, but Boston restaurateurs Maria Rondeau and JuanMa Calderón have created something truly special at their rural Vermont residence. Operating on select dates in summer and fall, Esmeralda brings Peruvian recipes and traditions to life in a setting that feels more like a dinner party than the estimable (and by-reservation-only) culinary experiment that it is. *esmeraldavermont.com*

PIZZA

> **Pearl Street Pizza,** Barre

The sight of split logs heaped alongside a tiled dome oven means just one thing: Vermont's most Italian city has the pizza

VERMONT INN to INN WALKING TOUR
Walk from Inn-to-Inn and See Vermont at 10 Miles a Day

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LUDLOW
131
103
10
MEDITRINA WINE & CHEESE
INN VICTORIA
CHESTER VILLAGE
POPPLE DUNGEON CREEK
OKEMO MOUNTAIN SKI RESORT
THE GOVERNOR'S INN
VERMONT INN to INN WALK OR
VERMONT COUNTRY STORE
LOWELL LAKE
11
TATER HILL GOLF COURSE
100
WESTON
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(13 miles) Chester, VT
802-875-4288
InnVictoria.com

Golden Stage Inn to The Governor's Inn (10.7 miles) Proctorsville, VT
802-226-7744
GoldenStageInn.com

The Governor's Inn to The Colonial House Inn & Motel (6.7 miles)
Ludlow, VT 802-228-8830
TheGovernorsInn.com

The Colonial House Inn & Motel to Inn Victoria (10.8 miles)
Weston, VT 802-824-6286
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it deserves, with crusts that balance chewy and crisp, kissed with the fire's light char. Here's the classic Margherita, made with tomatoes grown in the shadow of Vesuvius; there are also veggie, white, and pan-style pies, along with a full bar and Italian wines. Dine indoors or feast Naples-style at tables along pedestrians-only Pearl Street. *pearlstpizza.com*

THAI RESTAURANT

> **Saap,** Randolph

Randolph knew it had a hidden restaurant gem but never suspected it would be discovered quite so spectacularly. Last year's James Beard Award for best chef in the Northeast went to Saap's Nisachon Morgan, who introduced Vermont palates to the cuisine of her native northern Thailand, with its complex flavor profiles that rely on ingredients like lemongrass, Kaffir lime leaf, galangal, and pickled vegetables. Don't forget the sticky rice! *saaprestaurant.com*

WINE BAR

> **Brix,** Rutland

Peppered among the expected French, Italian, and California offerings at this cozy, brick-walled Merchants Row bistro are an Austrian red, a white from Spain's Galicia, and a Willamette Valley Pinot Noir. Beer? The requisite Vermonters share space with Mexican quencher Pacifico and mighty Czech Pilsner Urquell. Match your glass with wild boar salami, Vermont cheeses, flatbreads, pasta, and steak. Other draws: live-music nights with prix fixe dinners; sidewalk seating. *brixbistro.com*

EDITORS' PICKS: STAY

GREEN HOTEL

> **West Hill House B&B,** Warren

At just nine guest rooms, West Hill House may be small, but it's thinking big about global warming. All the electricity at this renovated 1850s residence comes from solar power, which also helps to cover two-thirds of the property's water heating. (There is complimentary EV charging, too.) Other eco-friendly touches abound, including coffee from the nation's first roastery powered by 100 percent renewable biogas. *westhillbb.com*

HOTEL SPA

> **Topnotch Resort,** Stowe

Ask Vermonters about their favorite waterfall, and some might mention the one that cascades onto their shoulders above the Topnotch hot tub. Other water features at the spa are an indoor lap pool and two outdoor pools, one heated. Inside are saunas and steam rooms; yoga, pilates, and aqua aerobics; and more than 30 private rooms offering deep tissue, reflexology, CBD, and other massage services. Afterward, enjoy men's and women's lounges with fireplaces. *topnotchresort.com*

LUXURY SUITE

Farmhouse Suites at Twin Farms, Barnard

Whether you're splurging or merely dreaming of staying in the lap of rustic luxury, take a look at Twin Farms' Farmhouse Suites. Your mind couldn't conjure a more stunning, all-inclusive country retreat: The only thing lacking is the option to never check out. These four, 1,000-square-foot sanctuaries share a stonework terrace and hot tub and a library with a two-story fieldstone fireplace. You can reserve one, but gathering friends will save you the chore of finding words to describe how unforgettable it all was. *twinfarms.com/farmhouse-suites*

NEW HOTEL

> **The Brattleboro,** Brattleboro

Chad Tinti and Ross Little left Boston to go all-in on turning a rundown house into an upscale microhotel with a Miami-meets-Vermont vibe. DIY renovations completed, they opened in September with three serene rooms. Plans call for more, plus a restaurant and spa. Go now, though, while you'll feel as if it's all for you, whether you're sipping handcrafted cocktails in the hot tub or by the pool or rediscovering calm during a guided forest immersion in the surrounding 32-acre wood. *thebrattleboro.com*

ROMANTIC OVERNIGHT

> **Four Columns,** Newfane

The ideal romantic stay marries lodging and location. Serene Newfane, with its Federal-style homes, stately 1825 courthouse, and handsome inn, sets the standard. Stroll woods and gardens, then retreat to an exquisitely appointed room such as the third-floor Sugar Maple, with its fireplace and vast arched window topping the eponymous columns and framing the village green. Inn restaurant Andrea's Table offers French-accented cuisine; the cellar brims with French wines and champagnes. *fourcolumnsvt.com*

STAY & PLAY

> **The Tyler Place,** Highgate Springs

Keeping everyone happy on a family vacation can be tricky, but not at this all-inclusive resort on Lake Champlain's northern reach. Settle into a cottage or suite, then venture out according to age and interests onto 165 acres of indoor and outdoor fun: pools, tennis, bicycling, basketball, archery, and skeet, plus watercraft on the big lake. Families can breakfast together, but kids eat early so their parents can enjoy buffet-style meals … as adults. *tylerplace.com*

EDITORS' PICKS: PLAY

ANIMAL ENCOUNTER

> **Vermont Institute of Natural Science,** Quechee

Take a walk through a 100-foot-high forest canopy, learn about Vermont's snakes and turtles, meet songbirds in a stroll-through aviary, and get up close with raptors (eagles, hawks, falcons, owls, and other birds of prey) at the woodsy VINS campus. Expert-led presentations feature 40 resident "raptor ambassadors," rescue birds incapable of living in the wild but indoor stars at showing off their swoops, dives, and keen focus. *vinsweb.org*

DOG EXCURSION

> **Dog Mountain,** St. Johnsbury

Since it opened in 2000, no place in America—and likely the world—pays greater homage to the bond between dogs and humans than these 150 mountaintop acres created by artist Stephen Huneck and his wife, Gwen. Though the Hunecks have both passed on, their legacy continues. Leashes are optional as dogs romp across fields and swim in ponds. Be prepared: The tiny dog chapel adorned with photos and remembrances of pets will bring both wonder and tears. *dogmt.com*

DOWNTOWN SHOPPING

> **Montpelier**

Vermont's capital is an indie-shopping treasure, with two dozen small-scale retailers lining State, Main, and Langdon streets (chains are no-shows). Distinctive women's wear? Try Rebel Heart, Splash Naturals, or Prana. Buy kids' togs at Minikin or Zutano, and browse books at Bear Pond. Find vintage vinyl at Buch Spieler, and suit up for sport at Onion River Outdoors. Shopping is hungry work, and Montpelier's restaurants are as refreshingly offbeat as the retail scene. *montpelieralive.com*

FACTORY OUTLET

> **Johnson Woolen Mills,** Johnson

In the beginning there was fleece—and it came from sheep, not recycled plastic. Woolen clothing is a Vermont mainstay, and the folks in Johnson have been making it for 180 years. Tailored on the same premises where the shop itself sits, the coats, jackets, vests, scarves, and famous plaid "Adirondack pants" have seen generations of New Englanders through deep winters in the deep woods. *johnsonwoolenmills.com*

HISTORIC THEATER

> **Barre Opera House,** Barre

Back in 1899, the "granite capital of the world" celebrated a double-decker achievement: a new city hall, topped with a posh opera house. Once welcoming the likes of George M. Cohan and John Philip Sousa but later abandoned, the Barre Opera House has been splendidly restored. It now hosts acts such as French-Canadian folk ensemble Le Vent du Nord and comedian Bob Marley, and it serves as the home of the Vermont Philharmonic. *barreoperahouse.org*

MOUNTAIN BIKING SPOT

> **Ascutney Trails,** Brownsville

No, Kingdom Trails partisans, we're not at the wrong end of the state here: Southern Vermont, too, boasts a first-class venue for mountain biking. Thirty-five miles of well-maintained trails thread the base and western elevation of Mount Ascutney, with four trailheads offering access to single- and double-track routes. Beginner, intermediate, and advanced riders will all find challenges aplenty, amid gorgeous forest scenery. *ascutneytrails.com*

MUSEUM COLLECTION

> **Shelburne Museum Circus Parade,** Shelburne

A perennial favorite among the Shelburne Museum's eclectic holdings is the Arnold Circus parade, a hand-carved homage to the glory days of the Big Top. The 4,000 figures—animals, clowns, trapeze artists, ringmasters, and their colorful props and wagons, all fashioned in 1/12 scale—prance along the length of a 518-foot, horseshoe-shaped building. Outside, ride hand-painted horses on a vintage carousel. *shelburnemuseum.org*

STARGAZING SPOT

> **Spitzer Planetarium,** St. Johnsbury

"Stellar" is the obvious word for the celestial projections at Vermont's only planetarium, situated atop the Fairbanks Museum. But the Spitzer's state-of-the-art digital presentations also include dome-wide videos on astronomy, weather phenomena, natural history, and NASA's latest explorations. Special programs are narrated by professional astronomers and weather experts, including Vermont Public Radio's "Eye on the Sky" team, headquartered at the Fairbanks. *fairbanksmuseum.org*

SUMMER PERFORMANCES

> **Farm to Ballet Project,** various locations

Born from the idea of bringing classical dance to rural Vermont, Farm to Ballet is a series of joyful outdoor performances starring dancing vegetables, barnyard animals, and even the seasons themselves. Against the backdrop of such beautiful venues as Retreat Farm, Champlain Orchards, and Shelburne Farms, dancers from Ballet Vermont weave together a story that speaks to our relationship to the land. *Weekends 7/8–7/29; balletvermont.org*

USED BOOKSTORE

> **Brattleboro Books,** Brattleboro

For more than 30 years, Brattleboro's favorite place to browse and buy used and out-of-print books has been this side-street emporium stocking over 25,000 volumes: fiction, nonfiction, local interest and authors, children's books, mysteries, and plenty more, all in good readable shape and at reasonable prices. Brattleboro Books will buy, too—that's how they keep up that remarkable inventory—but be sure to call first. *brattleborobooks.com*

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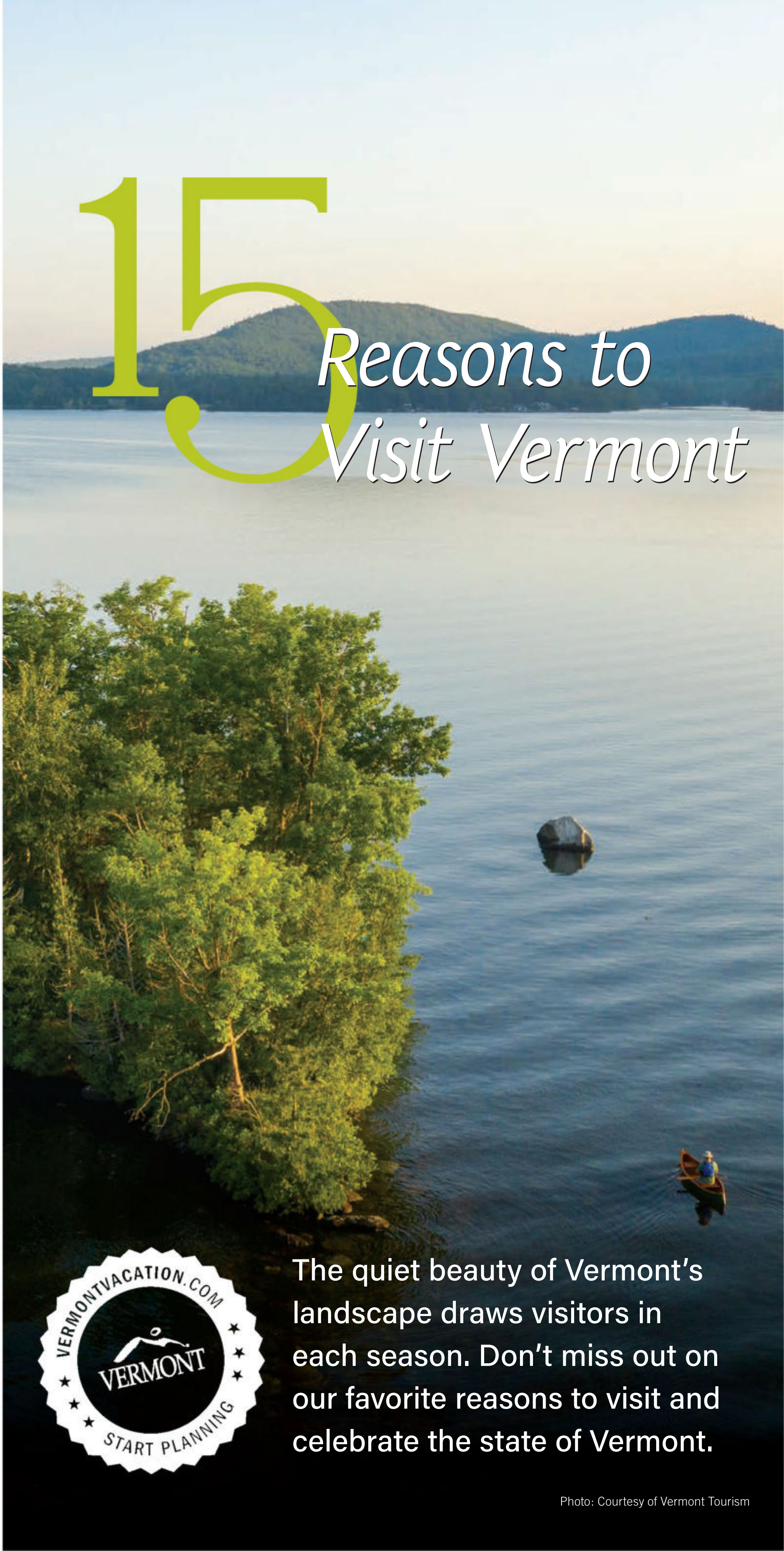
15 Reasons to Visit Vermont



The quiet beauty of Vermont’s landscape draws visitors in each season. Don’t miss out on our favorite reasons to visit and celebrate the state of Vermont.

Photo: Courtesy of Vermont Tourism

Whetstone Beer Co.

Whetstone Beer Co. in Brattleboro offers on-site brewing, café, live music, and two decks with stunning Connecticut River views. The Vermont/New Hampshire state line runs through the space, so you can drink beer in two states at once!

WhetstoneBeer.com
(802) 490-2354

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When was the last time you touched the soft coat of a baby horse? Experience living history at this National Historic Site and University of Vermont teaching farm. Open May-October for guided tours and special events. 74 Battell Drive, Weybridge, VT.

UVM.edu/cals/MorganHorseFarm
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SunAndSkiInn.com
(802) 253-7159

The Essex Resort & Spa

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SterlingRidgeResort.com
(802) 644-8265

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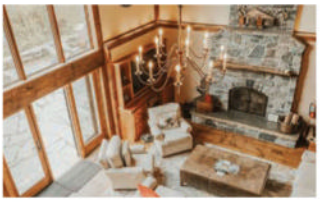

MAINE

DOWNTOWN STAY:
The Press Hotel, Portland

SPOTLIGHT: PORTLAND

BAKERY, SWEETS

> Norimoto, Portland

When Martha Stewart visited here last fall, she became the latest to fall under a spell that baker Atsuko Fujimoto has been weaving in Portland for almost 20 years. Japanese and European flavors intertwine in things like green tea macarons and azuki–black sesame rolls with matcha powder, while the croissants and other sweet standbys are exemplars of their forms. *norimoto-bakery.square.site*

COCKTAIL SPOT

> The Jewel Box, Portland

A James Beard Award semifinalist two years running, the Jewel Box has earned national cred—but its feel is 100 percent local haunt. It's the perfect spot for a girls' night out or an evening chatting with fellow cocktail connoisseurs, who come for owner Nathaniel Meiklejohn's ever-changing menu of drinks with names (Venus as a Boy, Mother of Dragons) as intriguing as their ingredients (Greek mastic liqueur, leather bitters). *jewelboxportlandmaine.com*

DOWNTOWN STAY

> The Press Hotel, Portland

Just a quick stroll from the city's beating heart, the Old Port, the Press Hotel is an ideal base for urban explorers. Opened in 2015 in an Art Deco–era building that once housed the *Portland Press Herald*, the property offers 110 rooms outfitted with oversize HD TVs, Frette bed linens, and Maine artwork; at the top is a splurge-worthy penthouse suite with a private rooftop patio overlooking the waterfront, the harbor and islands, and the ocean beyond. *thepresshotel.com*

GOURMET EXCURSION

> Wine Wise, Portland

Book one of these two-hour sailing tours, and sommelier and Wine Wise owner Erica Archer will help you navigate the fruits of various vineyards—Spanish, French, Californian, woman-owned, etc.—while the captain and crew of a replica 1800s schooner steer you around the beautiful waters of Casco Bay. All that's left for you to do is sit back with glass in hand and gourmet nibbles at your side, and drink it all in. *winewiseevents.com*

LOCAL MARKET

> Rosemont Market & Bakery, multiple locations

Whether planning a picnic, stocking an Airbnb, or just looking for a quick bite, travelers should stop into one of Rosemont's seven Greater Portland locations for a hit of Maine flavor. Breads and to-go foods come from the market's own kitchen, while Pine Tree State growers and suppliers account for more than 60 percent of what stocks the shelves and cases, including seafood from Portland's own Harbor Fish Market. *rosemontmarket.com*

VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT

> Cong Tu Bot, Portland

Acclaimed right from its launch in 2017, Cong Tu Bot is a familiar name to Portland foodies—as is the name of co-owner Vien Dobui, a perennial contender for Best Chef Northeast in the years that followed. But this ever-changing Vietnamese eatery is again ripe for rediscovery, having reopened last fall with a new concept and menu that skews more tavern than noodle shop (although some favorite dishes from the latter, such as the

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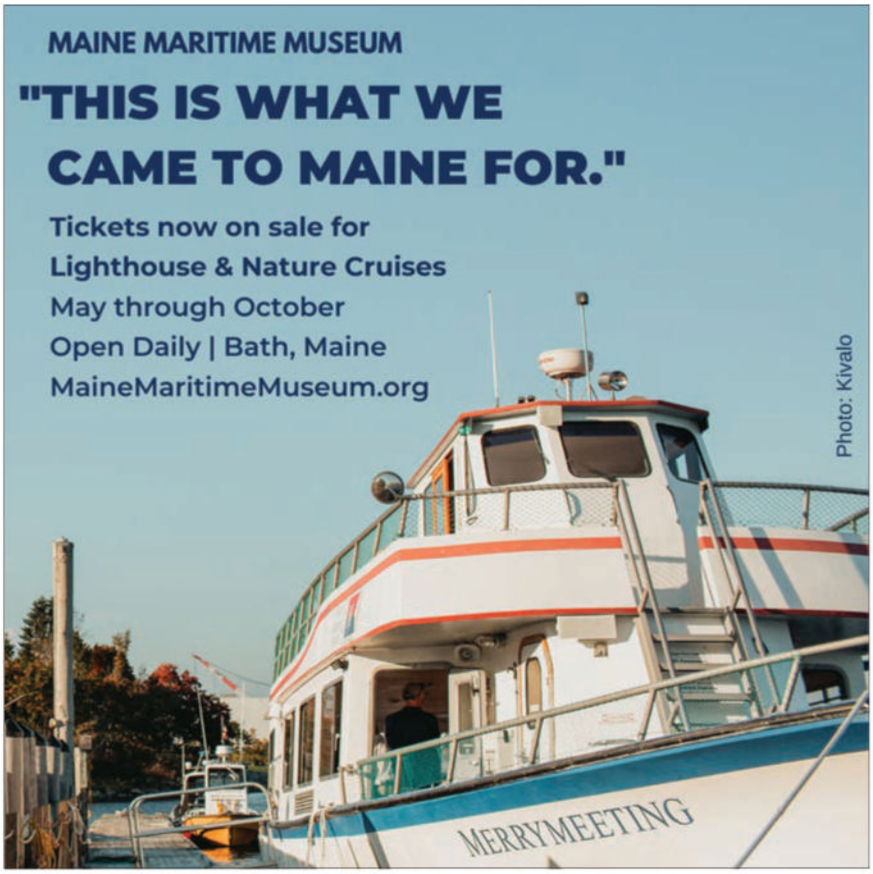
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EDITORS' PICKS: EAT & DRINK

BAKERY, BREAD

> Tinder Hearth, West Brooksville

Crusty, *chewy*, and *delicious* best describe the Old World–style organic and naturally leavened breads that emerge from Tinder Hearth's wood-fired ovens. Tim Semler and Lydia Moffet operate their bakery in the family farmhouse, located on the Blue Hill Peninsula. Using flours sourced from Maine and Quebec, they create loaves and boules including French batards, Vollkornbrot rye, miche, whole spelt, sandwich, and whole wheat. *tinderhearth.com*

DESTINATION BREWERY

> Oxbow Brewing Co., Newcastle

Amid the serpentine tidal rivers, fields, and woodlands of rural Newcastle, Oxbow Brewing Co. crafts European-style fresh and aged farmhouse ales in a renovated barn; nearby, it grows fruit and tends beehives for honey to flavor its beers. Visit the tasting room, and then wander the bucolic grounds: Perhaps play a lawn game, hike or bike the trails, or simply snag a pond-side seat to sip, savor, and relax. *oxbowbeer.com*

HISTORIC RESTAURANT

> Moody's Diner, Waldoboro

Moody's may not be a clapboard-clad, ye-olde-style spot, but there's a lot of history to this place, which began as a lunch wagon in 1927. You'll also find old-school fare like fish cakes, lobster stew, baked beans and brown bread specials, and blueberry pie. *moodysdiner.com*

NEW RESTAURANT

> Salt Wharf, Camden

At sunset, the views over the yachts and windjammers anchored in Camden's inner harbor to the hills beyond perfectly complement the fare at Salt Wharf. Chef Chris Pierce's seasonally inspired, creative New American menu offers both small and large plates, making it easy to cobble together a meal for any appetite. The awning-shaded rooftop offers drinks and lighter fare. *saltwharf.com*

PIZZA

> Rosalie's, Bar Harbor

Family-owned Rosalie's has been hand-tossing its scratch-made, thin-crust pies since 1981. Now double-dough, stuffed, and gluten-free varieties keep everyone happy. So, too, does availability in four sizes as well as by the slab. Nothing fancy or fussy in this family-friendly spot in downtown Bar Harbor, but the entertainment—watching employees toss the dough—is free and the portions are generous. *rosaliespizza.com*

SEAFOOD SHACK

> The Clam Shack, Kennebunk
This beloved shack perched on pilings over the Kennebunk River has a great water view, the perfect lobster roll, generous (and reasonably priced) lobster dinners, and terrific fried seafood. What more could you ask? They'll even ship lobster rolls to you anywhere in the country. *theclamshack.net*

WINE BAR

> Old Vines, Kennebunk
Factor in the tapas-style food menu made for sharing, the wine list emphasizing small vineyards, and the knowledgeable servers who understand how to pair food and drink, and it's easy to see why Old Vines is a perennial favorite among oenophiles. Located in a mid-19th-century barn, the restaurant overflows onto a deck in Kennebunk's Lower Village, just a few minutes' walk from Dock Square. *oldvineswinebar.com*

EDITORS' PICKS: STAY

COASTAL B&B

> Topside Inn, Boothbay Harbor
Gaze over the town, the inner and outer harbors, and islands from this inn with a walk-to-everything location. Owner-innkeepers Buzz Makarewicz and Mark Osborn double as your concierges, and from three-course breakfasts created with ingredients from the inn's gardens and local farmers' markets to sips, nibbles, and bites in BarOne, nothing is overlooked. Public rooms, a wraparound porch, and a lawn salted with Adirondack-style chairs provide plentiful places to relax. *topsideinn.com*

GLAMPING

> Terramor Outdoor Resort, Bar Harbor
Terramor's safari-style tents with beds and private bathrooms make camping luxuriously easy, while its location on the Island Explorer shuttle route lets you explore Acadia National Park without a car. Camp in comfort with electricity, Wi-Fi, robes, and private firepits. Relax with drinks or over flatbread in the lodge, enjoy the hot tub and pool, play lawn games, and let your pup romp in the dog park. *terramoroutdoorresort.com*

GREEN HOTEL

> Maple Hill Farm Inn & Conference Center, Hallowell
Situated in a renovated 1906 farmhouse on 130 acres just outside Augusta, Maple

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HOTEL RESTAURANT

> Slate at Blair Hill Inn, Greenville

Built in 1891 as a gentleman's estate and breeding farm, the Blair Hill Inn offers the kinds of elegant rooms, fine dining, and gracious hosting that befit a Relais & Château member. Drink in the sunset views over Moosehead Lake from Greenville to Kineo while sipping cocktails on the wraparound porch. The inn's restaurant, Slate, prepares a seasonally driven, multicourse tasting menu, with most ingredients sourced from the inn's gardens or local farms, foragers, and Maine fishermen. *blairhill.com*

LUXURY SUITE

> Elsie Weare Suite at Cliff House, Cape Neddick

Binge-watch the dancing sea spray from your glass-railed balcony or a snug armchair by the double-sided fireplace. Named for Elsie Jane, the wife of Cliff House founder Captain Theodore Weare, whose family owned the resort for four generations until 2014, this 1,750-square-foot suite even has ocean views from its deep soaking tub. The sun makes an early appearance on the coast, but you can pull your king-size, Maine-made Cuddledown comforter up over your eyes. *cliffhousemaine.com*

NEW HOTEL

> The Lincoln Hotel, Biddeford

Maine's scene-iest boutique hotel opened last fall in a repurposed textile mill, part of the "Biddesance" transforming Biddeford into a baby Brooklyn. The aesthetic? Palm Beach meets industrial chic. The rooms? High-ceilinged with distinct architectural features, tall windows, and gas fireplaces. The sparkling rooftop pool and tiki bar? *The* place to be this summer. That is, when you're not at the newest Batson River Brewing & Distilling outpost, located right in the building. *lincolnhotelmaine.com*

PET PAMPERING

> Inn by the Sea, Cape Elizabeth

Welcome to dog heaven. Not only do pups stay free at this beachfront resort, but each also receives a bowl, beach towel, sleeping mat, and turndown treat. Dogs can dine with their humans in the pub or outside and order from their own menu (meat roaff, perhaps?), and when the outdoor pool closes to human guests at the end of the warm-weather season, dogs celebrate with a weeklong "Pool Pawty." Don't have a four-legged friend of your own? Since the inn sponsors a shelter dog, you might even go home with a new friend. *innbythesea.com*

ROMANTIC OVERNIGHT

> Camden Harbour Inn, Camden

From the welcoming flute of prosecco to the turndown chocolates and slippers, you'll feel positively pampered here, where every room has at least a glimpse of the ocean and even the smallest ones offer in-room espresso machines and dreamy bedding. Chase spa treatments with drinks in the lounge and a fine-dining experience in Natalie's restaurant. The grand finale: a champagne breakfast in the restaurant or in your room. *camdenharbourinn.com*

STAY & PLAY

> Samoset, Rockport

Tee off on the 18-hole ocean-hugging golf course. Sunbathe by the zero-entry outdoor pool. Play lawn games, tennis, or pickleball. Work out in the fitness center, and swim laps in the indoor pool. Hike along the adjacent breakwater to Rockland Breakwater Light. And after a long day of doing everything—or nothing at all—enjoy cocktails in Enoteca Lounge and fine Mediterranean fare at La Bella Vita Ristorante, either inside or on the ocean-view deck. *samosetresort.com*

EDITORS' PICKS: PLAY

ANIMAL ENCOUNTER

> Maine Wildlife Park, Gray

Moose! Bears! Cougars! Raptors! At this family-oriented park operated by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, more than 30 Maine wildlife species are represented by animals that found a home here after being injured or orphaned, or that otherwise wouldn't have survived in the wild. Other highlights in this wheelchair-accessible park include a visitor center with interactive exhibits and a museum covering the history of the Maine Warden Service. *mainewildlifepark.com*

DOWNTOWN SHOPPING

> Belfast

Artists, back-to-the-landers, button-down business types, and families all can be seen shopping in Belfast's charming Victorian brick downtown (listed on the National Historic Register). They're drawn by independent shops selling books, gifts, garden goods, toy and games, clothing, art, sweets, and kitchenware, plus an environmentally focused general store and America's oldest shoe store. Other lures include a waterfront park and rail trail, eclectic restaurants, and plentiful free parking. *belfastmaine.org*

FACTORY OUTLET

> Jagger Spun Stash Mill Store, Springvale

No fancy pseudo-outlet, Jagger Spun's aptly named Stash Mill Store, located in the yarn-making company's 19th-century brick mill, is the real deal. Choose from a dizzying array of colors, heathers, and tweeds; natural and organic dyes; merino, bamboo, and silk wools and blends; and yarns of various weights. Fiber arts fans will find roving, fiber, kits, and patterns—the perfect items to stash away for future projects. *jaggerspunyarn.com*

GENERAL STORE

> Washington General Store, Washington

Need chainsaw oil or a caulk gun? Washington General Store, 20 miles inland from Camden, has what you're after. Craving fresh lobster? Yup, got that, too. Or maybe you need a good read, locally made soap, or a timeless toy. Heck, WGS even carries gardening supplies. Also available: fresh produce grown by area farms, pantry staples, and locally made food and beverages (*psst* … the cookies are delicious). *wgsmaine.com*

MINI GOLF

> Desert of Maine, Freeport

The Hermit's Adventure Golf Course draws its inspiration from the sandy expanse of the Desert of Maine itself. The 18-hole course, built mostly with natural materials such as wood and stone, challenges golfers with water features and obstacles while sharing the desert's story via sculptures and interpretive signage. You'll also learn about the hermit who entertained visitors en route to the desert. *desertofmaine.com*

MOUNTAIN BIKING SPOT

> Carrabassett Valley

With roughly 100 miles of professionally designed, well-signed, and annually mapped single- and double-track trails—and more under development—Carrabassett Valley ranks as one of New England's top mountain-biking destinations. Beginners find a great place to learn, experts are challenged, and international pros participate in Enduro World Series downhill races. *carrabassettnemba.org*

NEW ATTRACTION

> Haunted Hotel at Funtown Splashtown USA, Saco

Whispering Pines isn't like any Maine hotel you've visited. It's cursed. And when this one-of-a-kind family amusement by industry leader Sally Dark Rides debuts this summer, you'll want to grip your curse eradicator tightly and laser down all the menacing characters you'll encounter in 14 spooky rooms, all while keeping a keen eye out for Maine-themed "Easter eggs." Low scorer should treat your whole crew to poutine. *funtownsplashtownusa.com*

STARGAZING SPOT

> Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, Penobscot County

Home to the inkiest skies east of the Mississippi, Katahdin Woods and Waters became the first International Dark Sky Sanctuary on the Eastern Seaboard in 2020. With no electric lights and no commercial power sources amid these 87,564 acres, it's easy to find a place to set up a telescope to view the Milky Way in all its twinkling glory, identify constellations, spy planets, or see meteor showers. Look for the Stars Over Katahdin festival in the fall. *nps.gov/kaww*

STAY-ALL-DAY BEACH

> Old Orchard Beach, Old Orchard Beach

The namesake apple trees may be long gone, but from the waves lapping at the wooden pier to the hand-painted carousel, Old Orchard Beach is the best kind of throwback. Seven miles of sand are perfect for long walks, beach reading, or splashing in the waves. When it's time for a change of pace, there are plentiful options for both food and souvenirs, an amusement park, game arcades, and even a pair of 18-hole golf courses. *oldorchardbeachmaine.com*

USED BOOKSTORE

> Skidompha Secondhand Book Shop, Damariscotta

Step inside, and you'll instantly sense the love and pride that have powered this volunteer effort for 55 years. Hand-built shelves gleam. Maps guide you to reasonably priced books for every interest. And all purchases—there are puzzles, vinyl albums, DVD movies, and audiobooks, too—buoy the Skidompha Public Library. Look up from your browsing, and you'll see the Damariscotta River meandering by. Look above the fireplace, and you'll learn what Skidompha means. *skidomphabookshop.org*

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

SUMMER PERFORMANCES: Prescott Park Arts Festival, Portsmouth

SPOTLIGHT: PORTSMOUTH

BURGER JOINT

> Lexie's, multiple locations

Founded in 2010, Lexie's—now with five full-service locations from Dover to Newburyport, Massachusetts—keeps burger fans coming back with hand-crafted gourmet patties served up in a laid-back, local-joint atmosphere. Choose from nearly a dozen creative options (like the avocado-and-chimichurri-topped Green Lantern) or build your own with anything from ham to fried pickles to chipotle aioli. For a side of scenery, beeline it to the seasonal Lexie's Landing for sunset water views. *peaceloveburgers.com*

DOWNTOWN STAY

> Hotel Thaxter

Leave it to Seacoast hospitality veterans Jay and Amanda McSharry to create a downtown boutique hotel that channels a genuine sense of place for Portsmouth newcomers. The name and decor pay homage to 19th-century Portsmouth author Celia Thaxter, while the 15 guest rooms in the renovated c. 1860 building display works by today's local artists. Add-on packages spotlight revered local businesses (e.g., macarons from La Maison Navarre), while the excellent Japanese restaurant, Nichinan, ups the city's already-thriving seafood game. *hotelthaxter.com*

LIVE-MUSIC HAUNT

> The Press Room

Despite changing hands in 2017, undergoing lengthy renovations, and enduring the pandemic, Portsmouth's oldest continuously running music venue is still keeping the beat. Upstairs you can get up close to local and national talent spanning jazz to roots rock—or step into the spotlight yourself on open-mic and karaoke nights—while downstairs is a lounge-y space great for sipping, snacking, and socializing. *pressroomnh.com*

SIGHTSEEING CRUISE

> The Gundalow Company

Built at Strawbery Banke Museum using traditional techniques, the gundalow *Piscataqua* takes passengers on a voyage into the past while giving them an eyeful of local landmarks including Portsmouth Harbor Light and Fort Constitution. Take the sightseeing up a notch with a live-music or sunset cruise, or set sail with a local expert sharing historical and environmental tidbits on a Speaker Series cruise. *gundalow.org*

SUMMER PERFORMANCES

> Prescott Park Arts Festival

Portsmouth's lovely waterfront park becomes a cultural magnet every summer with its lineup of 80-plus events, two dozen nationally touring bands, and close to 300 performing artists—all for an optional donation. If you've never been, there's no better time to give it a whirl, as Portsmouth's 400th anniversary celebration is bound to take the festive atmosphere to new heights in 2023. *prescottpark.org*

VEGAN RESTAURANT

> The Green Elephant

Long before oat milk and plant-based meats became grocery staples, the Green Elephant

(Continued on p. 128)

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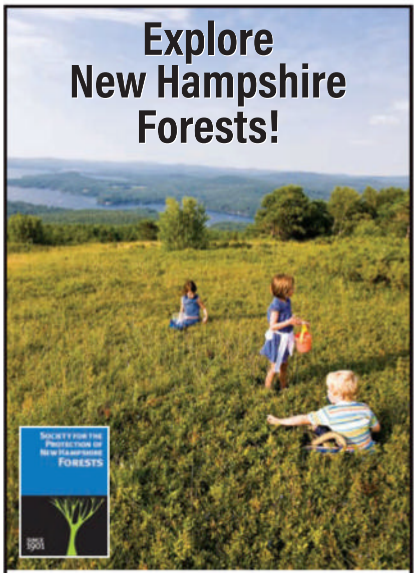
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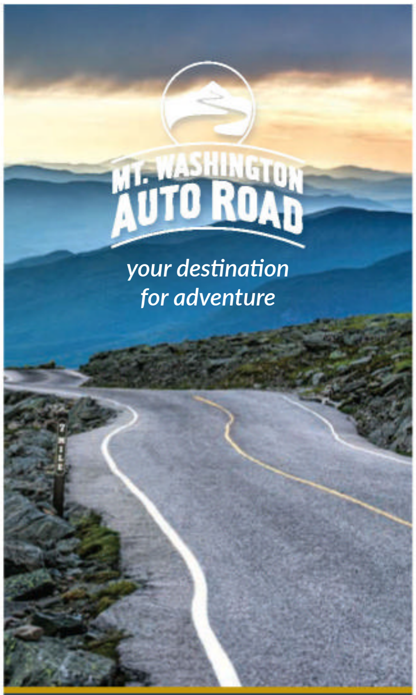
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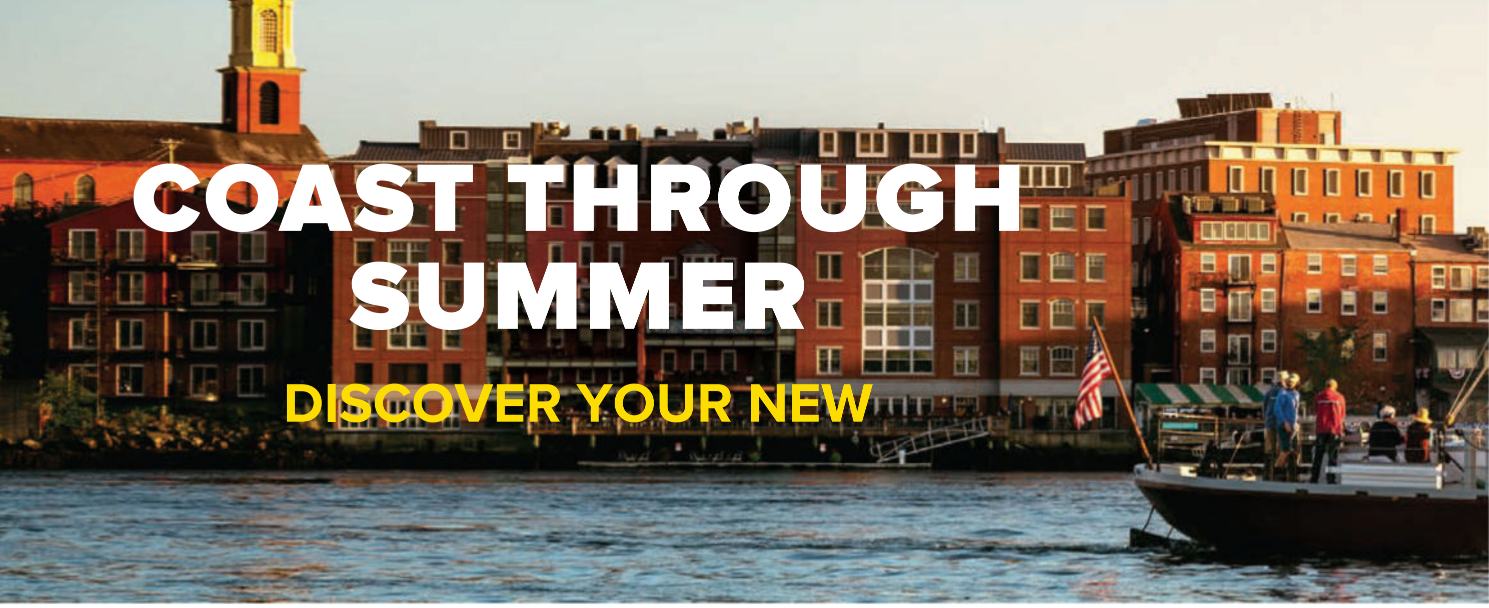

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(Continued from p. 116)

opened in 2007 in Portland, Maine, and helped put accessible vegan dining on the map with its deeply flavorful Thai-inspired offerings. That same delicious fare—and accompanying acclaim—arrived in Portsmouth eight years later when the city hosted a second location, still going strong today. *greenelephantnh.com*

EDITORS' PICKS: EAT & DRINK

BAKERY, BREAD

> **Fire Dog Breads,** Keene

What began as a farmers' market cult favorite in 2017 has grown into a brick-and-mortar bakery helping to anchor Keene's emerging artisan-food hub, Emerald Street. Yet Fire Dog still maintains a hand-crafted, home-kitchen feel as it turns out superlative crusty rustic loaves made with house-milled grains, including wheat, rye, and corn from farms right here in New England. *firedogbreads.com*

COFFEE ROASTER

> **Blue Harbor Coffee Co.,** Hampton

Coffee mastery runs in the family for Istanbul native Coskun Yazgan, a third-generation roaster whose brother and sister-in-law just happen to run Portsmouth's Caffe Kilim, now in its 30th year. Yazgan struck out on his own java journey in 2019, opening a café-roastery that showcases coffees sourced from boutique farms in nearly 20 countries and roasted to perfection in small batches. For a can't-miss eye-opener, try the Orca dark-roast blend with a shot of espresso. *blueharborcoffee.com*

DESTINATION BREWERY

> **Throwback Brewery,** North Hampton

Outlandishly flavorful IPAs, imperial stouts, and other brews made with ingredients largely sourced from within 200 miles are the main draw at Annette Lee and Nicole Carrier's brewery, but there are so many reasons to linger: the charming 1860s barn and beer garden, cute farm animals, fresh-from-the-field cooking at the on-site restaurant, and an events calendar sprinkled with trivia and open-mic nights, yoga classes, and more. *throwbackbrewery.com*

HISTORIC RESTAURANT

> **Three Chimneys Inn,** Durham

Housed in a 1649 homestead, one of New Hampshire's oldest buildings, the Three Chimneys gives a village inn feel and a menu that runs generally Continental, with New England flourishes like fried calamari, clam chowder, and prime rib. Ask for a table on the wisteria-shaded terrace or, in winter, a spot by the fireplace. *threechimneysinn.com*

NEW RESTAURANT

> **Ansanm,** Milford

What began as a pop-up sensation at chef Chris Viaud's acclaimed fine-dining restaurant, Greenleaf, came into its own last fall when this Haitian eatery opened in a South Street storefront whose small size belies the big flavors within. Viaud's family—including his Haitian-born parents, Myrlene and Yves—all help steer the Caribbean comfort-food menu of *griot* (marinated fried pork), savory pastries called patés, and yes, superlative jerk chicken wings. *ansanmnh.com*

PIZZA

> **900 Degrees,** Manchester

In reaching its 15th anniversary last year, 900 Degrees could have gotten by just on the strength of its pies, gourmet Neapolitan creations pulled from wood-fired brick ovens at, yes, the perfect temperature. But add an atmosphere suitable for date nights as well as family get-togethers, a generous selection of wines and cocktails (plus 12 tap lines), and a deck for al fresco dining, and it's truly a slice of heaven. *900degrees.com*

SEAFOOD SHACK

> **Brown's Lobster Pound,** Seabrook

In a competitive field, Brown's edges past other seafood shacks for its freshness, its fried clams (strips or whole), four kinds of chowder (clam, fish, lobster, corn), ample parking, and water views. It's BYOB and cash only, though, so come prepared. *brownslobsterpound.com*

WINE BAR

> **Vino e Vivo,** Exeter

Despite its downtown location, Vino e Vivo feels seductively off-the-beaten-path, sitting below street level in a brick-lined alley. Subdued lighting gleams off reclaimed wood and copper; an eye-catching wall of bottles behind the bar is an invitation to explore both crowd-pleasing cabernets and sauvignon blancs as well as lesser-known grapes and regions. But the food deserves just as much attention as the wine here, thanks to the presence of James Beard Award semifinalist Paul Callahan in the kitchen. *vinoevivo.com*

EDITORS' PICKS: STAY

CAMPGROUND

> **Bear Brook State Park,** Allenstown

New Hampshire's largest state park encompasses more than 10,000 acres of scenic wilderness. Overnight at one of the park's 101 campsites or hunker down at a cabin at Bear Hill Pond. Then fill your days with archery, swimming, biking, or exploring some of the 40 miles of hiking trails that course through the property. Motorheads should be sure not to miss the New Hampshire Snowmobile Museum. *nhstateparks.org*

GLAMPING

> **Lumen Nature Retreat,** Woodstock

At this White Mountains luxury escape, campers can scrap the sleeping pads and tight spaces in favor of comfort and rejuvenation. All of Lumen's A-frame tents and more spacious "safari" quarters feature high-end beds and linens, access to a climate-controlled bathhouse, and other savvy touches (battery chargers, kitchen kits) that can make anyone go wild for the woods. *stayatlumen.com*

GREEN HOTEL

> **The Glen House,** Gorham

The fifth iteration of this 68-room hotel at the base of Mount Washington honor its environment inside and out, including using carbon-free power systems and installing "dark sky compliant" outdoor lighting. An outdoor deck gives guests a front-row seat to the surrounding natural beauty, as does the lounge, whose windows offer a Presidential Range panorama. *theglenhouse.com*

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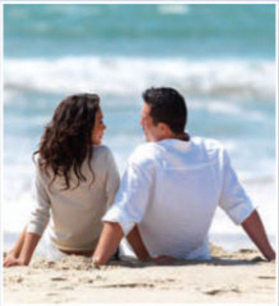

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HOTEL RESTAURANT

> Pavilion, Wolfeboro

Come hungry to Pavilion, the dining arm of Pickering House Inn, one of the top resort hotels in the country. Here, chef-owner Chris Viaud dishes up an ambitious menu that draws on local, seasonal ingredients. The delicious mix includes sharable plates such as Brussels sprouts with cider vinaigrette and pickled red onion, as well as entrées like local mushroom risotto and pan-roasted duck breast with sunchoke, leek, and apple. Rye and vodka from nearby Tamworth Distilling infuse the cocktail list. *pavilionwolfeboro.com*

HOTEL SPA

> Omni Mount Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods

Adhering to the notion that a grand hotel deserves a grand spa, this 25,000-square-foot retreat features rooms with views of the surrounding peaks and a long menu of indulgent facials, wraps, massages, and other treatments—including the enlightening Espresso Mud Wrap, which uses crushed coffee beans and volcanic pumice to awaken the senses. *omnihotels.com*

LUXURY SUITE

> Overlook Suite at Mill Falls at the Lake, Meredith

Climb stairs to your own lodge-style retreat looking out over soothing lake water. The luxury here is being able to launch your kayak or paddleboard right onto Lake Winnipesaukee. It's having exclusive access to a stone-rimmed plunge pool for two on sticky summer days. It's tucking kids into their own beds, then sitting out on the deck or screened porch, listening for loons. Then, when the air temperature cools, lighting a roaring fire in the floor-to-ceiling fieldstone fireplace. *millfalls.com*

NEW HOTEL

> The Inn at Rye Place, Rye

Not that different from your frugal parents, who chose motels a few miles from the beach to save a buck? You'll love this reasonably priced boutique hotel, celebrating its second summer. New owners utterly transformed the property without diminishing its retro cred. Rooms—some of which are dog- or even double-dog-friendly—are spacious, and so is the backyard, where games and firepits are just the kind of no-cost entertainment that'd tickle your ancestors (as would free breakfast). *theinnatryeplace.com*

ROMANTIC OVERNIGHT

> The Inn at Thorn Hill, Jackson

The bar for luxury is set high at this inn, but if you want a true heart-to-heart escape, book a stay at one of the rustic cottages on the property. These two tiny homes are private and peaceful, yet mere steps from the main lodge, and both feature gas fireplaces, screened-in porches, and private baths, including a two-person spa hot tub in the aptly named Trailside cottage. *innatthornhill.com*

STAY & PLAY

> Loon Mountain Resort, Lincoln

It's all about the "peak experience" at this family-forward resort. Glacial cave scrambles, gondola rides, biking, mountaintop yoga, and hiking (of course) are all in Loon's backyard. So is a lineup of dining options and a range of spa treatments when you're ready to chill out from all that action. *loonmtn.com*

EDITORS' PICKS: PLAY

FACTORY OUTLET

> Barbour, Milford

Secreted away in a nondescript office park, this old-school outlet can give your wardrobe a royal upgrade at prices that are a bit friendlier to the common people. Featuring the high-end British clothing line favored by the House of Windsor since the 1970s—most notably the signature waxed cotton jackets that co-starred in seasons four and five of *The Crown*—the outlet has nice discounts on overstock and can-you-believe-it deals on irregulars and returns, such as a pristine Orinsay puffer coat (retail $450) for under $100. *barbour.com*

GENERAL STORE

> Zeb's General Store, North Conway

Named after an early 1900s schooner boat captain, Zebulun Northrop Tilton, Zeb's is a multifloor tour of nostalgia and homegrown fare. Amid the store's antique fixtures, discover an array of penny candy, Moxie soda, and more—including the largest collection of New England–made specialty foods—at this White Mountains bucket-list stop in the heart of downtown North Conway. *zebs.com*

MOUNTAIN BIKING SPOT

> Highland Mountain Bike Park, Northfield

Fifteen miles of varied trails anchor the riding scene at this one-time ski hill. Highland's chairlift will you get atop the hill, while fun cruisers including Cat Scratch Fever and the double-black-diamond Lunch Lady will get you down it again. Adrenaline junkies gravitate to the Skill and Jump Park Zone, while newbies can take advantage of Highland's "Find Your Program," a one-day ticket that includes lift pass, bike rental, and one-hour training session. *highlandmountain.com*

NEW ATTRACTION

> Nashua Center for the Arts, Nashua

If you'd see more concerts, comedy acts, and theater productions if it didn't mean driving into Boston, then you belong in the audience at Nashua's spanking new Broadway-style theater. Already an arts hub, the city's about to feel livelier as this inaugural season brings diverse entertainment to the stage. You'll feel drawn right into performances by the likes of jazz legend Pat Metheny from any roost in the 750-seat house. *nashuacenterforthearts.com*

STARGAZING SPOT

> McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Concord

Reach for the stars—or at least get an unparalleled look at them—at this museum. The recently renovated planetarium puts the edge of the known universe on full display with 10K projectors; it's one of only three institutions in North America with this state-of-the-art technology. Stargazers of every stripe, meanwhile, gravitate to the monthly Skywatch and telescope clinic, a fun primer for wannabe astronomers on what to look for and how to get the most out of their own equipment. *starhop.com*

STAY-ALL-DAY BEACH

> Hampton Beach, Hampton

Part seaside resort and part old-time carnival, Hampton is not so much the diamond of New Hampshire's coast as its honky-tonk rhinestone. Walk "the strip," where T-shirt and souvenir vendors vie for your attention, amid a bevy of fried dough stands, ice cream vendors, candy shops, arcades, and entertainment venues. The beach often gets crowded, but the water is sparkling clean and the people-watching is unsurpassed (see for yourself via the webcams at hamptonbeach.org). *nhstateparks.org*

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In a red post-and-beam barn, just up a country road from Flag Hill Distillery & Winery, Vincent McCaffrey is seven years into his comeback chapter. The rare-book shop he launched from a pushcart, then nurtured on Boston's Newbury Street for 29 years, is reincarnated here, and narrow aisles are a magnet for those who love turning pages that transcend time. Thoughtful gifts lurk on loaded shelves and in bins of antique sheet music and magazines. *avenuevictorhugobooks.com*

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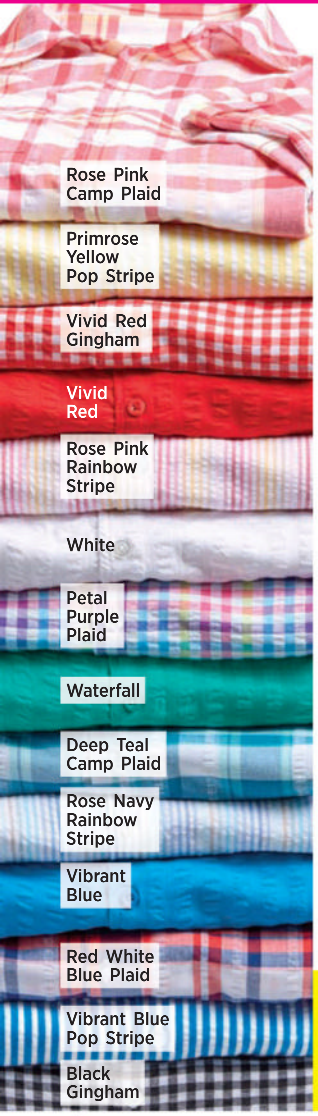
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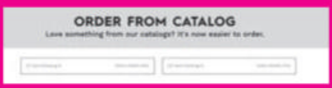
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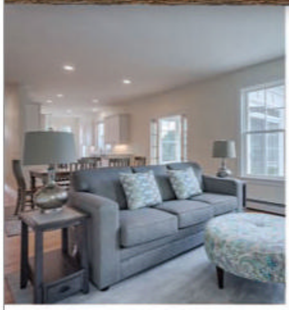

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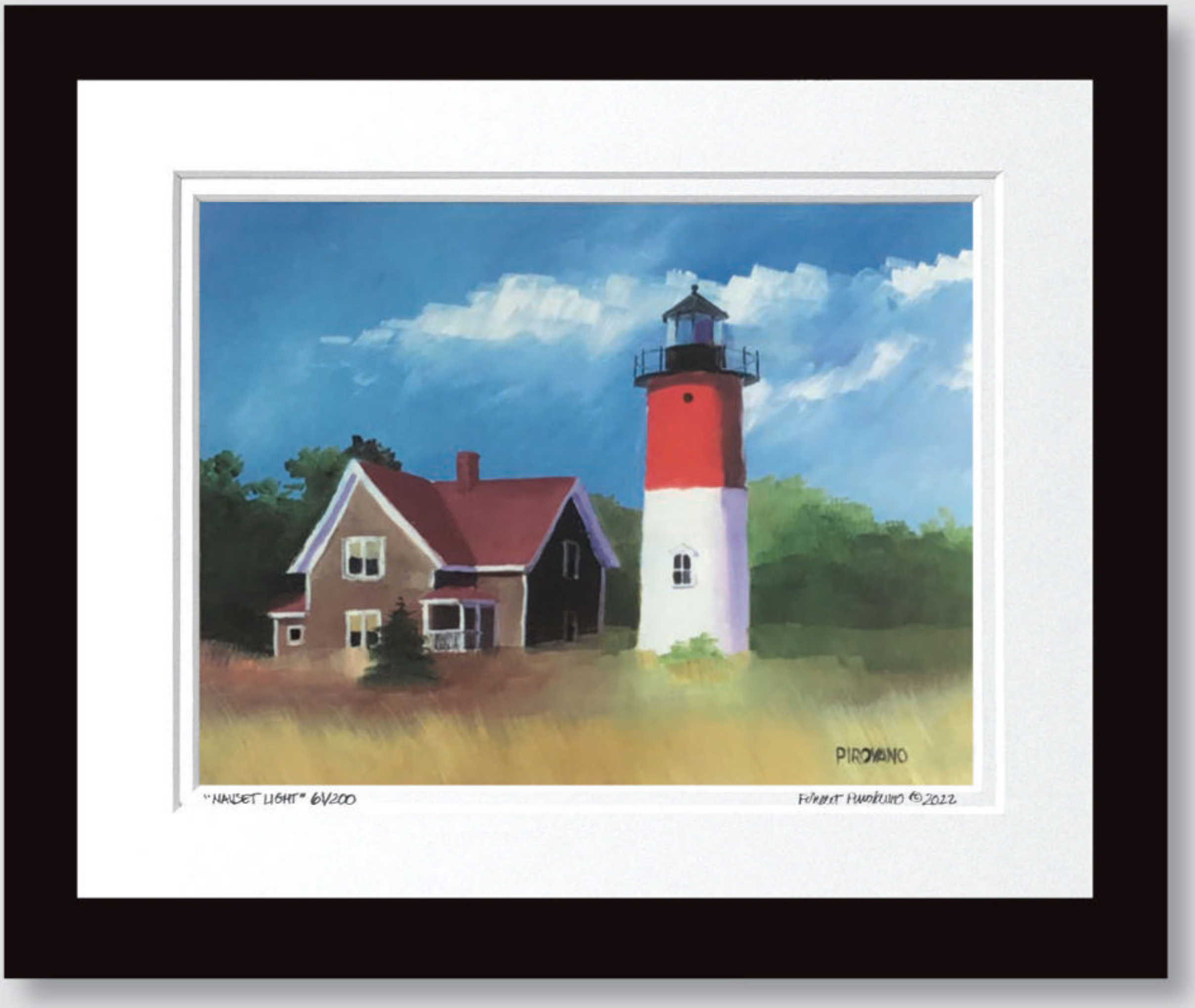

"NAUSET LIGHT"

Also known as Nauset Beach Light

Forrest Pirovano's painting "Nauset Light" shows the lighthouse as seen from the South

Nauset Light, the most well-known and photographed lighthouse on Cape Cod, is located within the boundaries of the Cape Cod National Seashore in Eastham, Massachusetts. It was erected in 1923 to replace The Three Sisters which were decommissioned and relocated to a small field nearby. Painted red and white as an aid for daytime identification, this picturesque lighthouse is an iconic symbol of Cape Cod and can be seen on MA license plates and Cape Cod Potato Chip bags. This beautiful limited-edition print of an original oil painting, individually numbered and signed by the artist, Forrest Pirovano, shows the lighthouse and its keeper's house in the afternoon sun.

This exquisite print is bordered by a museum-quality white-on-white double mat, measuring 11x14 inches. Framed in either a black or white 1½ inch deep wood frame, this limited edition print measures 12¼ X 15¼ inches and is priced at only $149. Matted but unframed the price for this print is $109. *Prices include shipping and packaging.*

Forrest Pirovano is a Cape Cod artist. His paintings capture the picturesque landscape and seascapes of the Cape which have a universal appeal. His paintings often include the many antique wooden sailboats and picturesque lighthouses that are home to Cape Cod.

FORREST PIROVANO, artist
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(Continued from p. 75)

FROM LEFT: Waldoboro metalworker and The Good Supply artisan Erica Moody; examples of Moody's pressed-brass serving pieces.

TRISTAN SPINSKI

vessel that explores the infinite patterns caused by decay (the definition of spalting); shelves filled with the beauty of trees at every stage of life.

White tells me that Western Avenue is a real community, and I decide to take my time. Each stop turns into a visit, a chance to learn about someone else's art, what it means to them. And how we can connect through it.

The floors unroll their makers. Here, at MJ Porcelain, are Myong Jung's hand-built porcelain ears of purple corn, flames of pink asparagus, folds of red cabbage, influenced by 18th-century European work, but blooming out of her experiments with traditional Korean ceramic techniques.

Peter Zimmerman, at Designs in Glass, calls himself "just your friendly neighborhood glass blower," but his intricate "marbles" contain starry realms—the cosmos captured in glass orbs.

He shares the studio with Tracy Levesque, aka the Birch Lady. I've spotted some of her paintings hanging in the halls, but now, in the studio, I'm surrounded by brilliant birches meeting overhead, vibrating in rich autumn colors, or bathed in a lunar glow, in a style she terms "fairy-tale realism." Reminiscent of our own world, but "just a wee bit more mysterious and magical."

Which, in many ways, mirrors this transformed mill building, a place that calls itself "The Creative Soul of Lowell." Giant paintbrushes dangle overhead in a hallway. Underneath, Hope Greene's eerie black-and-white photos use antique and modern processes to convey a mix of landscape, myth, and the mind. Over there, a deep velvet maroon couch and chairs to sink into—did I just time-transport into a Victorian parlor? A vitrine displays hand-poured, small-batch Mill City Mercantile candles: Anjou Pear and Woods. "Not All Candles Are Created Equal," the makers proclaim.

Down yet another corridor, I'll encounter Barbara Fletcher's 3-D collages, dark yet hopeful visions of birds and hatching worlds. I pass the Middlesex Bindery on Floor 3, with a stunning faux wall of antique books. Bruce Wood's dystopian visions of Marvel-Comics-meeting-Tom-Swift spill out from his Glass Ingot workshop. His might be the craziest stop of all: found objects reassembled into antique diving suits, aviators wearing gas masks, fish with comb-like teeth, mad-scientist lamps.

Time for a cappuccino, to sit and let this "creative soul" sink in. I'm inspired and heartened by what I find, the artists I have met. Yes, I certainly shopped. But I came away with a lot more.

Open studios held monthly; westernavenuestudios.com

THE GOOD SUPPLY

Pemaquid, Maine

The rain is thundering down, rattling the roof, and this two-story weathered barn, set in a pastoral landscape,

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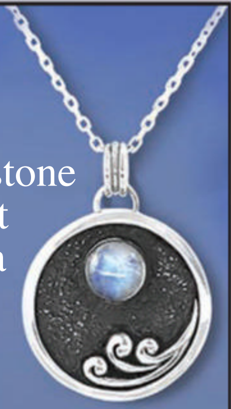
Summer by the Sea

Pearl & Sapphire Bracelet

This story is a dreamy blend of several places we've been to along our coast. On a warm evening, and with the golden glow of a setting sun, all seems right. The chatter, the laughter, Maine is a great place to be. It's so perfect, that when looking back, it all feels like a dream.

Wear this bracelet and enter a dreamy summer memory. There's ocean and sky, a full sail gliding between islands, billowing clouds, and an evening gathering of friends and family. It's summer by the sea.

CT9201.....$288



Moonstone Moonlight on the Sea Necklace

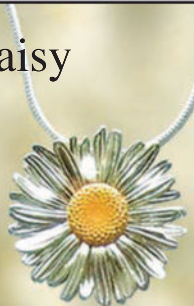
I think
this simple rustic piece
showing waves sweeping ashore,
with its gnarly rough night
background antiqued black,
and with a big old moon hanging
in the sky low to the horizon,
is one of the most romantic
pieces we have ever made.
The moon glows blue in the night sky,
the waves are high polished silver.
I can hear the waves.
I can smell the salt air,

Moonstone Moonlight on the Sea Necklace
18″ Sterling Silver chain

X4112...$195

French Daisy

Necklace



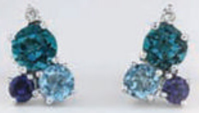
The French Daisy

She sits in a field; hair kissed gold by the setting sun. A single flower rests in her hand; dreams swirl with the clouds above as she begins to pluck, revealing the true heart of the one she loves. She wants to know.
She needs to know. She must know.

The French Daisy Love Poem

He loves me a little.
He loves me a lot.
He loves me passionately.
He loves me madly.
He loves me not at all.

X2542...$345



Tasmanian

Blue Topaz, Sapphire & Diamond Earrings

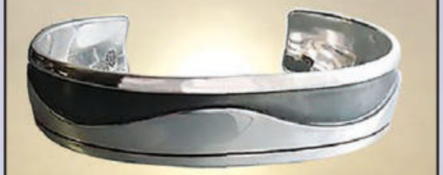
This is amazing pair of earrings. Three blue gems in different shades of blue and one sparkly white diamond. Tasmania is a big triangular island to the southeast of Australia in the multi-hued Tasmanian Sea. Our gems are set low and comfortably close to the ear lobe in 14K white gold in a pierced-post friction-back design.

Blue is the magic color of humanity. We all love blue. To have three shades of blue in a single earrings and with a single spark of diamond is pure magic. Looks awesome on the ear. Because the blues are different sizes, there's a lot to look at. Keep this in mind as you consider.

X4325......$675

High Tide, Low Tide

Cuff Bracelet



"Life's a Beach", the bumper sticker says. And if you live at the beach, high and low tide create the rhythm of the day. What you do is different depending on whether the tide is in or out.Silver waves rise and fall against a dark sky. One size fits most. Sterling Silver.

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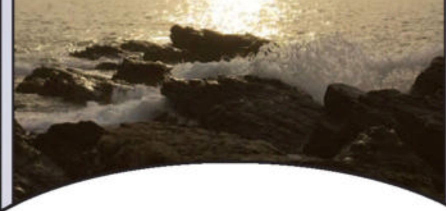

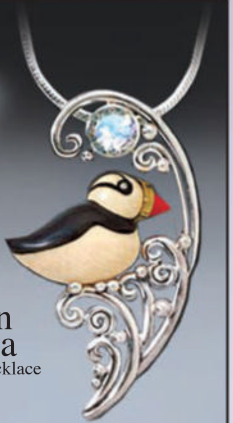

Puffin Into the Sea

Into the Gale Necklace

The indomitable spirit of these fierce independent little avian mariners is to be admired. They come to their own private islands to recreate and nest in the late spring and summer. When baby puffins are ready, the big and little puffins go back to the sea, far, far out, no one is exactly sure where, to spend the fall and winter floating, flying, diving, fishing, braving fierce winter winds and wild seas.

Sterling silver puffin carved from ancient fossilized Mammoth tusk, gold-filled bill detail, faceted moonstone at the top of the wave.
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X4355......$265

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is not only providing shelter—it's dressed top to bottom with enough artwork and handcrafted housewares to conjure a deep sense of home. In fact, I'm ready to move in. "I hear that all the time," Catherine McLetchie tells me, smiling with genuine delight, as another wave of visitors rolls through the door.

Getting lost is half the fun of getting away, and it certainly feels like I've driven off the map. The Pemaquid Peninsula—a picturesque tentacle dangling off Maine's Midcoast—is only about an hour and a half north of Portland, and it ticks every Maine box. Scenic beauty, lobsters, weathered shingles, rugged cottages. Harbors dotted with fishing boats, crying gulls. Also, a scent of fresh fried fish, which draws me to Pemaquid Seafood (see "Crafting Your Visit," p. 140), right before pulling into The Good Supply.

When McLetchie greets a new customer—"Buckeyes!" she calls out, spotting a sweatshirt—I make friends with "G," her amiable retriever, and take in the large oil paintings gleaming against rough barnboards. "She's a real Mainer, doing real Mainer art," McLetchie says of Jessica Ives, whose sunstruck waterscapes feature swimmers and fishermen. And while I'm certainly no fly caster, I take a deep dive into this painter's feel for water.

Barn boards and warm light make a good canvas. Liz Martone's glass mosaics shimmer like shards of shattered light: aqua, black, sea-green. Art dangles from the rafters, literally—leathery sculptural pieces that are the work of Colby College sculpture professor Bradley Borthwick. Among the other notable artists sharing the barn boards is George Mason, whose meditative "relief tapestries" combine encaustic with layered paper cutouts.

McLetchie started The Good Supply in 2012, in a small shed behind the 1850s barn, which was a wreck. A year later, it emerged from the ruins a proud post-and-beam, filled to the rafters with McLetchie's vision. Housewares were just the beginning, but *what* housewares: benches draped in Betsy Leighton's riotously colorful merino wool blankets, alongside her Bowerbird Studio Japanese-style linen aprons. Pottery pieces jostle on cupboard shelves—gold-rimmed porcelain cups that Alexsondra Tomasulo imbues with a "stopping-by-woods" feel that even Robert Frost might fancy. They face off against Soozie Large's ceramic whisky shot glasses in … chartreuse! Tangerine! Sunflower!

WHERE THE MAKERS ARE

A selection of New England craft festivals and multiple-artisan shops with something to tempt you from every state.

Artisans' Gallery
Waitsfield, VT
Hand-built ceramic birdhouses and brighter-than-life canvases of the Vermont countryside are just a few of the teasers in this 1830s co-op storefront representing more than 150 Vermonters. *vtartisansgallery.com*

Frog Hollow Vermont Craft Gallery
Burlington, VT
The nation's first state craft center—in the center of busy Church Street—rotates the work of 200-plus Vermonters, with items ranging from hand-carved Windsor chairs to blown-glass fish to Noguchi-style light sculptures. *froghollow.org*

League of NH Craftsmen Fair
Newbury, NH
Under tents at the base of Mount Sunapee, more than 300 juried artisans bring their best to this nine-day August event, one of the nation's oldest craft fairs, now celebrating its 90th anniversary. The league also has seven year-round galleries around the state, with wares from its 700-plus juried members. *nhcrafts.org*

Paradise City Arts Festival
Northampton/Marlborough, MA
A showstopper that feels like a festival; an extravaganza with 200-plus top-notch craftspeople and fine artists. Artists Linda and Geoffrey Post have been showcasing creativity since 1995 with an event that is its own work of art. *March, May, October, November; festivals.paradisecityarts.com*

Field of Artisans
South Kingstown, RI
Who doesn't love a pop-up market? And when it's a field of artisans, it's truly a field day. Since 2015, creators from around New England have joined an ever-expanding network of more than 700 makers, many of them hailing from Rhode Island, ready to pop up at venues ranging from the General Stanton Inn to South Kingstown Town Beach. *fieldofartisans.com*

Guilford Art Center Craft Expo
Guilford, CT
This annual outdoor juried show held in July gathers some 180 artisans on beautiful Guilford Green. The center is also a year-round destination for artisan-made crafts, displaying everything that its 100-plus juried makers can dream up, with summer pop-up events. *guilfordartcenter.org*

Island Artisans
Bar Harbor and Northeast Harbor, ME
A showcase for more than 100 Maine artists and makers at two galleries. The owners offer their own hand-spun, hand-dyed yarn, wearable fiber art, and one-of-a-kind clocks. *islandartisans.com*

United Maine Craftsmen Shows
Augusta, Brewer, and Portland, ME
For 50 years, the state's largest nonprofit craft organization has highlighted Maine's talent in a juried show that kicks off the holidays, with shows in November and December. *unitedmainecraftsmen.com*

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Not to ignore the graphic tea towels by Allison McKeen, and Erica Moody's forged brass and copper pie servers, but honestly things are tucked in and around everywhere. Like those laundry stain sticks from SoulShine Soap Company that McLetchie swears will remove *anything*. They're spilling out of a fragrant corner anchored by a vintage sink filled with other goodies: Copper Tail Farm goat-milk soaps, Island Apothecary body oils, LooHoo's woolly dryer balls.

Impossible not to touch Tim Christensen's one-of-a-kind sgraffito porcelains—songbirds and sea life encircle vessels that nest, soar, and defy category. "He wants to make art that people 300 years from now will understand without speaking English," McLetchie tells me. The practical arts are not ignored, either: here's a Snow & Nealley splitting maul, the

CRAFTING YOUR VISIT

Western Avenue Studios

Lowell celebrates its mill-town heritage with an exceptional tribute to its role in the Industrial Revolution: The **Lowell National Historical Park** occupies several blocks, blending 1800s textile mills and exhibits with canal boat tours and the **National Streetcar Museum**, plus a trolley to the **Boott Cotton Mills Museum**. On a different "note," this is also the setting for the annual **Lowell Folk Festival**, July 28–30.

And if you're looking for culinary stimulation beyond Western Avenue, Lowell is home to the country's second-largest Cambodian population. **Heng Lay** gets raves for its Cambodian noodle soup and Beef Loc Lac; **Simply Khmer** serves casual Cambodian, flavored with lemongrass, garlic, and kaffir lime leaves. At nearby **Bangkok Market**, you can pick up ingredients for your own feast.

The Good Supply

Draw a compass around The Good Supply, and you'll find plenty of diversions inside a short radius. A two-minute drive away, through a grove of enchanted pines, local favorite **Pemaquid Seafood Restaurant** does seafood-casual—lobster rolls, clam chowder—on a bluff overlooking the entrance to Pemaquid Harbor. Close by, there's **Pemaquid Beach**, the iconic **Pemaquid Point Lighthouse** (featured on Maine's quarter), and an archeological site at **Fort William Henry**. Downhill from the fort, the **Contented Sole**, a former cannery turned waterfront restaurant, lives up to its name.

"Here in New England, the character is strong and unshakable"
– Norman Rockwell

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How is it that I've barely moved beyond a few steps, with so much more for me to take in? The barn continues bustling, and now so do I. What *about* those chunky rings and beaten bangles from Coco Corral's Loving Anvil? Incorporating raw gemstones, or personal messages hammered into reclaimed brass, silver, and gold? Or these tiny barnacle earrings, rendered in mustard and sea smoke enamel, fresh from metalsmith Kate Mess's workbench, that evoke "the stubborn crustaceans" she's observed in her surroundings on the Maine coast?

McLetchie hands me an invitation to her annual summer art party, still a few months off. We all get one, everyone who comes through the door, and Liz Martone—she of the glass mosaics, mentioned earlier—joins the conversation. She's a close friend and now co-curator in this artistic adventure, helping McLetchie fill the barn with art, craft, community. "Friends for real," they call it. That phrase comes up a lot, not just with each other, or about the artisans who've gathered under this roof, or even when they talk about the yearly art party. We're *all* included, all invited, all asked to be part of the barn magic.

Magic that also happens to include a moose puppet. A Shepherds' Craft Farm ushanka hat that looks like something the Little Prince might wear on other planets. And this glow-in-the-dark Ruth Bader Ginsburg poster. Friends for real.

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(Continued from p. 77)

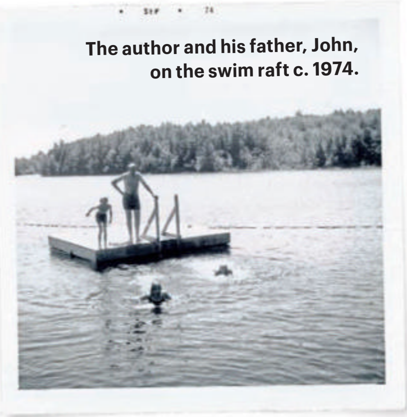
It's quite possible that you have a similar place in your own life, a place steeped in memories and tied up in the evanescence of summer and youth. We want such places to defy time, to never change. And it is safe to say that in the spring of 2020 a determined spirit of stasis prevailed at the beach club. Many governors had been in situ for 20, 30, even 40 years, and several of them, including myself, were descended from the club's progenitors—from prim Brahmins who show up in old photos skirted, hatted, waistcoated, sitting erect in chairs on afternoon lawns.

But the world has changed over the past 130 years, and so has our pond. Once the exclusive domain of summer people, our shoreline has evolved to welcome all kinds of year-round New Hampshirites: artisan farmers, remote IT workers, plumbers, electricians, and carpenters. But now we had, essentially, a club where a few aging traditionalists made nearly all the decisions, and the people who actually used the beach every day, young families, made none. At board meetings, I became an insurgent, a mouthy 55-year-old whippersnapper pushing back against entrenched power.

Matters came to a head that year when The President, a lawyer, wanted to cut down some trees on club land. Invoking a narrow reading of the word *property*, he argued that the club's trees were in fact not property, and that, as such, per club bylaws, they could be excised via board fiat. We voted. Ten governors embraced the notion that trees are not property. One did not.

And in the quiet quarters of his heart, the dissenter began harboring presidential ambitions.

At this point I should probably explain the pond voting system, which in the early spring of 2020 was two-tiered and tilted in favor of the 70 or so members who collectively claimed the 212 active shares in our club's corporation. Stockholders have always enjoyed the privilege of choosing whether to vote at the annual meeting or via proxy. The rabble, in contrast, had a voice only if they attended the meeting, a painfully boring affair, often hours long and defined by its predictability. (The President was in office because at 34 consecutive annual meetings he'd been affirmed by a cursory, unanimous vote.)



The author and his father, John, on the swim raft c. 1974.

My campaign was an homage to the women who shaped me, and as such, it was an affront to others.

The whole setup certainly felt unfair, but this was my first-ever political campaign, and it was the pond's as well. I needed to focus on strategy. I called up a couple of savvy friends—a state senator in Connecticut, a lawyer who works inside the Beltway in Washington. The wisest advice, though, came from another pal. "You've kind of got this Sid Vicious thing going on," he said. "Tone it down, man. Play it cool."

With my first campaign email, sent in early June, 35 days in advance of the July 18 vote, I did as advised. I hit the membership with a photo of me wearing a button-down shirt and a necktie as I strolled down the driveway of the club, holding in one hand an heirloom wicker picnic basket and in the other the palm of my then-girlfriend, M. "I've been a beach club member since 1964," the text began. Earnest, yes, and it got traction.

"Good for you," one club elder wrote in response.

"Excellent," wrote another.

Soon after, I began distributing cold bottles of microbrew to which I'd affixed my own label reading, "Official Ale of the Donahue 2020 Campaign." I created campaign letterhead and hand-wrote notes to voters. I purchased a "Donahue for President" rubber stamp.

But I had real issues to discuss. On June 18 I sent an email that opened with a photo of a famous Norman Rockwell painting, "Freedom of Speech," that I had hung from a club bathhouse. Beneath the picture I listed my pond goals: "At the annual meeting, make sure all members have a voice. Implement voting by mail. Implement term limits."

A week later, one lifelong member sent me a letter. It said that in forcing a real election, I'd sullied the beach club. "[Your campaign is] imposing and offensive. There is no need for it. The pond is fine. Could you please cease and desist?" The writer added, "I can picture your mother and grandmother rolling over in their graves."

The writer could not have been more mistaken.

My grandmother was an extrovert, a onetime society girl who carried a debutante's sense of thrill into her 90s; she brought everyone she met—waitresses, morticians, convenience store clerks—into her orbit. My mother was quieter, more introspective. She was a professional writer with a blithe and gentle voice leavened by the odd ironical wink.

They were inordinately close—my mom was the only child of divorced

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parents—and on beach club politics, they were united as liberals. In the early 1950s, when the club balked at extending membership to a Jewish man, they took a summerlong leave from our sands, swimming instead at a friend's beach across the pond. In the 1970s, when the beach club launched a wildly controversial, short-lived program that saw local non-members—*townie kids!*—taking swim lessons in our waters, my mom and grandmother were ardent supporters. In a sense, they taught me the most important swim lesson of all: Life is dynamic and fluid. Surprises and change wash toward us constantly, and we survive only by being flexible and hopeful.

My campaign was an homage to the women who shaped me, and as such, it was an affront to others—most notably to the previous maintenance chair, who'd occupied the position for 40 straight years. I'll call him Science because he once told me that he had pond maintenance "down to a science." "When I put the Adirondack chairs away for the winter in the bathhouse," he said, "I know all the angles."

He also once told me, "My family hasn't gotten along with your family for 100 years." Science's people are the standard-bearers of pond conservatism, a world view that embraces tight membership limits, nepotism, and, most critical, the concentration of beach club stock in the hands of the oldest, most venerated families. When I launched my campaign, one of Science's allies—his brother-in-law, our 44-year incumbent treasurer—held, along with his wife and their progeny, 40 stocks, far more than any other club family.

Each stock constituted a lever, and as the election neared, my detractors began pulling those levers by dividing their stock. For example, Science's daughter-in-law, previously bereft of voting privileges at our club, suddenly had a share and a vote. Meanwhile, some frequent beachgoers had no power at all.

One club elder after another took to the club's group email list to denounce me. Each of my critics had known me since I was born. And while they'd carried a certain tolerance for decades, they shared, I sensed, a tacit belief that there was something seriously wrong with me. I tried not to think about beach club politics, and I developed a bedtime ritual. Propped up on two pillows, I placed a steaming cup of licorice tea on my chest and inhaled the fragrant stream. I meditated on the dark skin of the pond, cold and still at night. I tried to breathe deep.

When I went down to the pond now, I fixed on the memories I had of the place—on the way root beer had fizzed on the hot sand once, a half-century before, when my mom inadvertently poured me too much, and also on the wet leaves underfoot in the sandy wading area. Once, when I was 14 or 15, a friend and I were contracted, at two dollars an hour, to rake these leaves up, and the task was impossible. All we could do was create tiny brown cyclones that swirled about in the shallow water. These memories formed the webbing of the world I knew, and now, in the fraught run-up to the election, that world seemed imperiled.

In running for president, my critics believed, I'd taken things too far. I was assaulting the sanctity of their pond.

In running for president, my critics believed, I'd taken things too far. I was assaulting the sanctity of their pond. I was wrecking something sacred in their lives, when they could least absorb it. They were old now, and the halcyon memories they had of teaching their children and grandchildren to swim were becoming distant and ever more cherished. I knew I was causing them pain, and a small part of me felt guilty for violating pond mores.

I had permanently blackened my social standing at the pond. I was reminded of this each evening just before dusk, for that was when the club's old guard gathered for drinks at the long picnic tables by the large bathhouse. I found myself with nothing left to say to many club members. As I made my way past their table to change into my bathing suit, I wondered if this place would ever be the same for me again.

On the morning of election day, I arrived at the beach club an hour early. The Treasurer was already there, seated and masked. The election commissioners were there as well, and that made me glad. In deference to Covid, they'd decided to allow non-stockholders to cast a quick drive-by vote, so long as they did so inside a two-hour window. Now the commissioners were setting up the drive-by station.

I, meanwhile, was scrutinizing a printout of the voter registry. By now, I had the document memorized. I knew, or at least thought I knew, the proclivities of every voter. I also felt as though I had a decent sense of possible electoral outcomes. Worst case, I had The President winning 63–54. Best case, the election went 60-57 Donahue.

Turnout was everything, so my girlfriend, M., was now lingering three miles away, in our village, awaiting poll station intel and poised to ferry straggling voters to the pond if needed. I did call her. She brought a woman who'd overslept. She brought the club's oldest member, a white-haired 94-year-old man who was intensely pro-Donahue. When the polls closed, my printout was covered in check marks. Things were looking quite good. "I think we've got it," I whispered to M. "I really do."

We wouldn't know immediately. For Covid reasons, the commissioners had stipulated that no one could count—or even touch—the ballots until three days had passed. Still, when I drove to Maine that afternoon, a work trip, I rolled down the windows and joyously cranked the stereo, filling the car with the greatest rock 'n' roll tunes of my youth. Aerosmith. AC/DC. The Who. At stoplights, I canted my head back and played air guitar. I was so happy.

I was clobbered 71–46.

What happened? I don't know. Pollsters still puzzle over how they miscalled the 2016 U.S. presidential election. I just moped. For the rest of that summer, I stayed away from the beach. I looked into joining our neighboring club.

But time passed. When winter gave way to spring, I started reading The President's club mailings. The 2020 election had featured a contentious down-ballot drama: five candidates fighting for three open board seats. The three victors were all pro-change, and in his candidate's statement, one had proclaimed, "Should Bill Donahue be elected, I would like to be someone that shares in his vision of the future." I sensed that major changes were afoot.

Then, in June, the news came. The President wrote that both he and The Treasurer were resigning, simultaneously, after a combined tenure of 80 years. The beach club was, meanwhile, poised to grant non-stockholders the right to vote via proxy and also to enact new rules curbing the rote reelection of board members.

Had the brittle old system crumbled amid exposure to sunlight? Or had The President and The Treasurer simply grown weary? Explanations would be forthcoming, I was sure, but I didn't care about the why.

As soon as I heard the news, I went down to the pond and jumped in and began swimming, as I often do, *out*—past the raft and the buoys and on toward the black center of the pond. It was a cool day, and windy, and some waves were so big they were whitecapped. As they rolled over me, I tried to be flexible. I was, in any case, hopeful.

We've got a very old club, I thought as I swam along, and it's still a bit stiff and creaky. But history is long. We will get there.

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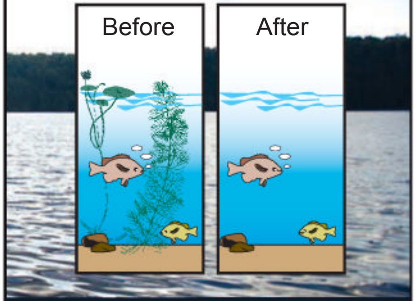

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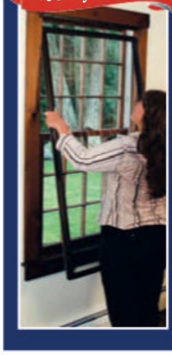

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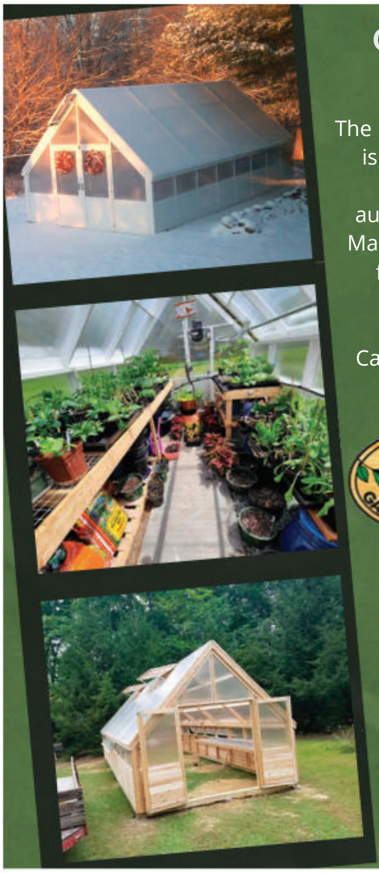

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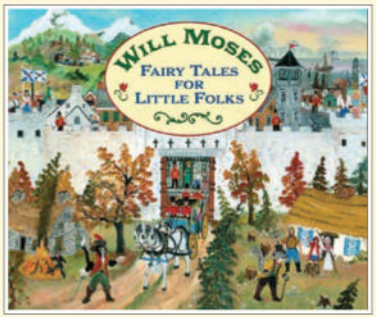

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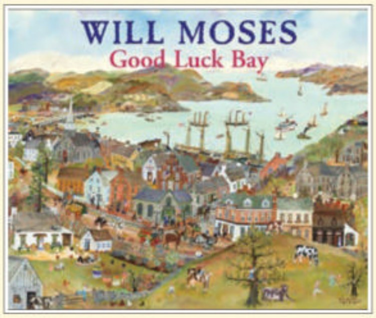

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Life in the Kingdom

(Continued from p. 152)

Carhartts that are frayed at the cuffs and blown out on the right knee, revealing my penchant for favoring that leg whenever I kneel. How many times do I kneel in a day? It must number in the dozens, all those times I drop to my knee to sharpen the saw, drive a nail, or pet the cat. Maybe to plant a seed or dig with my hands around the edges of a rock so I can lift it free of the rich soil, toss it onto the pile at the eastern edge of the garden where it lands with the musical clink of stone on stone, just another in a long line of liberated rocks. Every year we think we've dug them all, and every year the frost lifts a few more toward the surface. Still, I think maybe it's good that I have to kneel so often. It's a little bit humbling, and it's a little bit like bowing, and I like how it brings me closer to the ground. It's the posture of a common man doing common work.

Maybe the energy I feel this time of year is really just relief—to have made it through another winter unscathed (and with a half row of firewood to spare!), to be reminded that for all the ways in which my life can feel too small and quiet, it also contains this overwhelming fullness, and that there is compensation for the sacrifices we've made over the years. The vacations forgone, the inflexiblity of the creatures that depend on us, or just the moments I find myself kneeling that don't feel quite so much like bowing and more like a run-of-the-mill pain in the ass: flat tires, burned-out starters, leaking hydraulic hoses. Or trying to crack the huge nut that holds the brush mower blade in place, a consistently futile undertaking that always sends me scurrying to borrow Tom's impact driver, but generally not before I've removed a considerable quantity of skin from the knuckles of my right hand. Yeah. That friggin' mower blade. Gets me every time.

I used to think that these sacrifices were proof of something: that I was more committed, or harder-working, or maybe just a little bit tougher. I don't think that way anymore; now, I see that we are all making sacrifices all the time, that there is no possibility of a life without concessions. But equally, that there is no possibility of a life that doesn't offer compensations. The trick, if there is one, is determining which concessions you're willing to make, and, by extension, which compensations are most important to you.

> Maybe the energy I feel this time of year is really just relief—to have made it through another winter unscathed.

So here we are, on the cusp of summer. Winter has come and gone, and as always, Penny and I stayed put, breaking the ice on the cows' water, feeding the insatiable maw of the woodstove even as we split cord after cord of firewood for next winter's feedings. Over and over again, I knelt unceremoniously in the snow and on the ice, cold seeping through to the knob of my knee. There's nothing noble about it, and it's not proof of a damn thing. It's just a middle-aged man shivering in the diminishing light, blowing on his numbing hands every 30 seconds, desperately trying to figure out why the tractor won't start, hoping like hell he can get it going before dark.

But now? Now in the mornings I take my second coffee in hand and walk outside in my sour-smelling tee and worn-out jeans. Now I stroll down the driveway, past the half-curious cows and the tractor that will soon start with a mere turn of its key. Now I enter the orchard, where the dropping blossoms flit through the air like moths and the grass is turning a deeper shade of green by the minute. I kneel and take a lush tuft in my hand. It'll soon be ready to graze, and isn't it a miracle that this happens every year?

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Life in the Kingdom | BEN HEWITT

The Cusp of Summer

After a long winter comes the reward of new life.

ILLUSTRATION BY TOM HAUGOMAT

And so summer comes in full, or nearly so. In the orchard, the apple blossoms emerge in a burst of color, then begin releasing their delicate petals, one after another after another, and for the next two weeks, walking beneath the trees is like walking through the world's most benevolent snowstorm. The air is full of flowers making their meandering drift to earth, and on gray days, it looks almost as if the trees are lit from within by some mysterious and irrepressible energy.

At night I lie with the bedroom window flung wide, alternately reading and pausing to listen to the undulating chorus of wood frogs. The sounds seem to come from everywhere at once, rising and falling and rising according to ... what, exactly? I have no idea. Maybe whim. Maybe nothing. Winslow the cat perches on the wide sill of the open window, ears pitched forward, tail twitching, surely imagining the bounty of defenseless creatures just beyond that confounded screen.

In the morning, light comes early and I awake fully alert, with none of the slow-emergence-from-the-drowsy-depths sensation that plagues me in winter. Perhaps my alertness is derived from the same mysterious force that lights up those trees and compels the wood frogs to sing. Perhaps it's not mysterious at all. After all, it happens like this every year. It doesn't come from nowhere.

I dress quickly, in the same clothes I wore the day before and the day before that (and, if I'm to be entirely honest, the day before that): a sour-smelling T-shirt and a pair of

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